

ALF warns Kuwait, Gulf states

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An Iraqi-based faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Tuesday threatened to carry out attacks against Kuwaiti leaders, oil installations and Gulf war allies if 10 Palestinians condemned to death in Kuwait for "collaborating" with Iraq were executed. The Arab Liberation Front (ALF) said the governments of the mostly Western U.S.-led coalition that drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait in February 1991 "are legitimate targets for our revenge." The ALF accused Kuwaiti leaders of "treason" and said Kuwaiti targets could include its palaces and embassies as well as oil wells. "We warn the symbols of treason among the (Kuwaiti ruling) Al Sabah family, agents of America and Zionism, against any attempt to execute our comrades," its leadership in the Israeli-occupied territories said in a statement to AFP. "We tell them that we are capable of reaching them where they are." The oil wells, which are guarded by dogs faithful to their American and Zionist masters, can be set ablaze more than once and then it will be too late for regrets," the statement added.



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PLO denies meetings with Israeli officials

TUNIS (R) — A senior Palestinian official has denied that Palestinian and Israeli officials met recently in Europe, the Palestinian news agency WAFA said Monday. Quoting Mahmoud Abbas, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member, WAFA said reports about such meetings were "groundless." WAFA also said that Mr. Abbas and Palestinian chief negotiator Faisal Al Husseini did not visit Oslo or Vienna recently, as some Israeli sources reported. Mr. Abbas and Mr. Husseini last week visited the United Arab Emirates and Qatar in order to improve relations between the PLO and Gulf states.

Exiles ready to study new Israeli proposals

MARI AL ZOUHOUR (AFP) — A spokesman for 396 Palestinian exiles stranded in South Lebanon said Tuesday they were ready to examine any new Israeli proposal to allow them home. "We continue to respect the Israeli-American deal but if there are new proposals we are ready to examine them," Abdul Aziz Rantisi said in remarks coinciding with the resumption in Washington of Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Arafat to have Vienna talks with Kozyrev

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat left for Vienna on Tuesday to address a U.N. human rights conference there and hold talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, Palestinian sources said. Mr. Arafat was to meet Mr. Kozyrev late Tuesday and would address the U.N. World Conference on Human Rights Wednesday, they added.

U.N. programme in Iraq is alive

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A senior United Nations official said Tuesday that the humanitarian programme in Iraq was "still alive" despite the departure of U.N. guards and a lack of funds, saying \$50 million in aid could be forthcoming soon. The United Nations last month first announced it would withdraw all of its 236 guards left in Iraq by mid-June unless almost \$500 million were found to continue the programme. Almost all were in northern Iraq. A total of 93 guards protecting humanitarian supplies to Kurds in northern Iraq have been pulled out since May, including 43 who left Kurdish-controlled areas Sunday. "The programme is still alive and will continue," Mohammad Zejari, coordinator of U.N. humanitarian activities in Iraq, said. "Seven countries have promised to give \$50 million to the programme," he said, adding that the United Nations could also count on \$30 million worth of subsidies left-over from last year.

Algerian psychiatrist dies after stabbing

ALGIERS (AFP) — A prominent psychiatrist, Mahfoud Boucebi, died Tuesday after being stabbed by the armed assailants as he entered the suburban hospital where he practised, a reliable source said. Algerian radio had announced earlier that Dr. Boucebi, head of the psychiatric ward at the Drid Hocine Hospital, had been stabbed several times in the chest by the duo who were apparently waiting for him in front of the hospital. The motive of the attack was unclear.

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U.S. offers Syria-Israel guarantees as talks begin

Mixed signals from Israelis, Palestinians

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States would consider guaranteeing security between Israel and Syria if the two long-time foes conclude a solid peace agreement, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Tuesday.

But as negotiations resumed after a month-long recess, Syria and Israel were in sharp disagreement over the future of the strategic Golan Heights and far from an accord.

Syrian negotiator Muwaffak Al Allaf said Israel had to surrender all of the land under U.N. Security Council resolutions or bear the blame for a breakdown in the peace talks.

"Otherwise," Mr. Allaf said, "Israel will bear the responsibility for the failure of another round of these peace talks."

Mr. Christopher met separately with foreign ministers Farouk Sharaa of Syria, Amr Musa of Egypt and Shimon Peres of Israel in Vienna Monday.

On a higher level, President Clinton has exchanged letters with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, said a senior official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

"The exchanges were very substantive," the official said.

The statement reflected the wide gap that remains between the parties after more than 19 months of negotiations.

But Mr. Christopher, posing for pictures with visiting French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, staked out an active role for the Clinton administration once the two sides drew closer — and after they reached an agreement.

"The possibility of security guarantees has always been one of the matters that are before the parties," he said. "There are a number of aspects in that negotiation that are necessary before we reach that question."

But Mr. Christopher said, "the United States would be willing to consider such a role if it is possible for the parties to come to a sound agreement with respect to the Golan Heights."

Syria wants the land back, much as Egypt recovered all of Sinai after a 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

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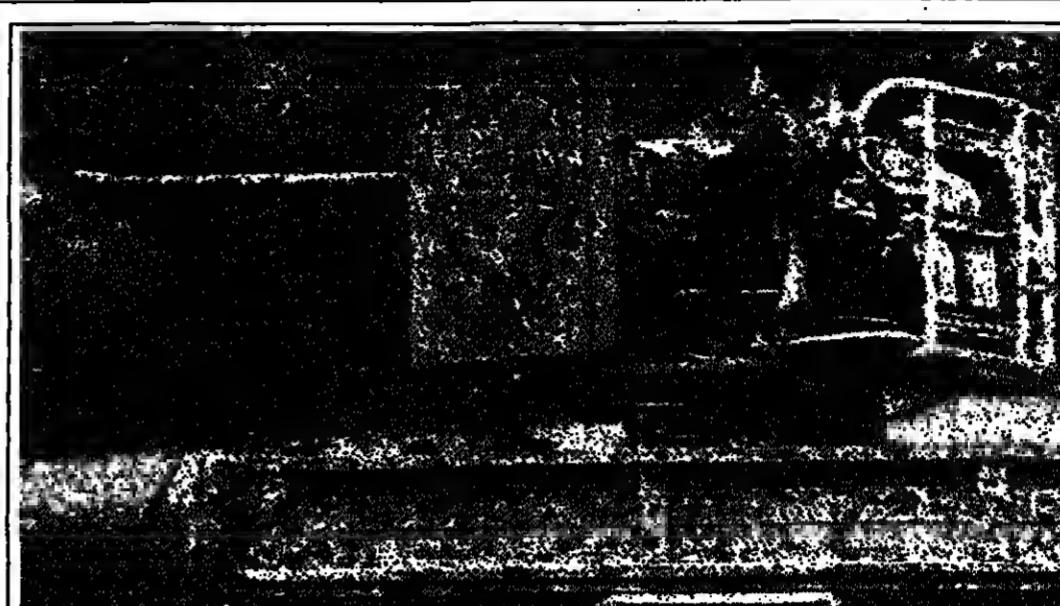
"The exchanges were very substantive," the official said.

He declined to provide any details except to say it dealt with the central issues in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations.

Mr. Rabinovich denied that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had said an Israeli parliamentary committee that Israel would never withdraw completely from the Golan Heights in exchange for full peace with Syria.

The Palestinians also protested the Israeli decision more than two

(Continued on page 10)



RAGING VIOLENCE: A Bosnian Serb soldier Tuesday shoots with an anti-aircraft cannon in the eastern enclave of Gorazde. Gorazde was declared a U.N. haven on May 6, but is still under Serb attack and Serb authorities have refused to allow U.N. military observers or even humanitarian aid into the region (see page 8) AFP photo.

King, Hurd hold talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received at his residence in London British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, press release from the Jordan Information Bureau in London said.

"During the meeting, the King and Mr. Hurd reviewed extensively all matters of mutual concern and interest, including the current stage of the Middle East peace process," it said.

Bilateral relations and ways and means to ensure their future development and progress were also discussed, it added.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, the Jordanian ambassador in London, and one of Mr. Hurd's top aides.

Knesset to debate ban on torture

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel's parliament will debate Wednesday a bill by leftists to outlaw torture of Palestinian prisoners, a practice which human rights groups say is routine in Israeli jails.

"We have to pass this legislation to prevent perversions of justice," said the bill's co-author, Haim Oron of the leftist Meretz faction. "We have all witnessed those perversions in the last years."

Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups say at least two Palestinians have died this year in interrogation wards of the Shin Bet secret police and at least four died last year.

Justice Minister David Libai of the ruling Labour Party said the government opposed the proposal because it defined torture too broadly.

"The clauses are too inclusive in a way that whenever it will cause emotional suffering or difficulty for the prisoner it will be possible to define the interrogation as torture," Mr. Libai told reporters Tuesday. "We said it seems to us difficult to support such broad definitions."

Mr. Libai has appointed his own committee to propose alternative legislation which he said would bring Israeli law in line with international conventions on torture.

The committee would revise recommendations of the 1987 Landau commission which investigated charges of police torture and then authorised use of "moderate physical pressure."

The Labour-led government is committed to new legislation to ban torture and Israel ratified the International Convention Against Torture in 1991, but nine out of every two security suspects tortured is set free and never charged, but no steps are taken against the torturer."

Under the proposed legislation, torturers would face up to 20 years in prison as would any public employee who is aware of torture and fails to report it. Evidence obtained under torture would be inadmissible.

According to Labour MP Yael Dayan, one of the private bill's sponsors, "certain types of torture have become the norm for Arab security suspects."

"But Jewish security suspects are not tortured. One out of every two security suspects tortured is set free and never charged, but no steps are taken against the torturer."

Economic forum wins high marks

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A three-day symposium on Jordan's economy ended Tuesday after an intensive examination of the Kingdom's economic problems and future prospects by prominent specialists from different countries.

The symposium's last session, which was mainly open to the audience to air their views and evaluations on the wide-ranging subjects which were tackled, was an opportunity for many attendants to call on the Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan to organise more economic forums similar to the one which just ended.

The audience, however, suggested that future forums have fewer topics, more time for presentation of papers and also additional time to engage the participants in discussions.

According to most attendants, the symposium was extremely successful in stirring economic thinking although the emphasis was more on the problems. They said the focus should have been on offering solutions or proposals for the future.

During the past three days, specialists examined the topics of indebtedness, banking, food security, water, animal wealth, unemployment, scientific research, development strategies, economic theory and implementation, tourism, investment, industry, transport, energy, higher education, employment, privatisation, economic information and Jordan's economic relations with Arab and European countries.

One of the observations which were made Tuesday pointed to the weakness of statistics in Jordan as lecturers often gave contradictory figures on a certain subject with each of them citing different reliable sources.

Another observation was that Jordan's economic development and strategies throughout the previous decades were not governed by scientific or purely economic considerations but, rather, by political, social and security factors.

A lecturer, Jamal Tabat, from the Royal Scientific Society, Monday lauded the democratic atmosphere in the Kingdom and went on to blast the country's scientific institutions charging that their set-up and performance was all bureaucratic and in no way can be described as "truly productive."

He said that since the founding of the Kingdom Jordan's scientific institutions have only produced managers and ministers and not a single scientist.

Dr. Ghazi Al Sawa from the University of Jordan, strongly criticised the higher education system and affirmed that favouritism was widespread in admitting low-qualified students to the university, especially under royal scholarships.

He urged that higher education be restricted and that community colleges be transformed to institutions of applied sciences in order to provide the labour market with highly skilled workers.

Aideed supporters stage anti-U.N. rally

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — More than 1,000 supporters of warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed staged an anti-U.N. rally in Mogadishu on Tuesday as his enemy interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammed praised U.N. military action against the warlord.

The U.S. is pushing the United Nations to arrest General Aideed, blamed for the killings of 23 Pakistani peacekeepers, according to American officials.

Delegations including Pakistan, Gambia, Salvador, Tunisia, Algeria, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Iran, all spoke to support the appeal.

Russia sided with the United States and Western nations in their efforts to set up a U.N. high commissioner for human rights to combat abuses worldwide.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Russia also supported proposals to establish a permanent international tribunal to punish human rights abusers.

"It would be for me quite a frustration if the conference failed to approve at least those two ideas," Mr. Kozyrev told reporters before his speech.

The Dalai Lama, who without trying became the star of the human rights conference, refrained from making any direct reference to China in a prepared speech to the NGOs he had been scheduled to address Monday.

But he attacked China's position that Asian and other Third

World countries could not be bound by Western cations on human rights. The Dalai Lama said neither he nor a majority of Asians agreed with this view.

In other developments:

— the conference unanimously adopted a resolution from Bosnia to appeal to the U.N. Security Council to stop the genocide in Bosnia.

Malaysia's delegation said members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference met earlier Tuesday to agree to express their support for Bosnia.

Delegates including Pakistan, Gambia, Salvador, Tunisia, Algeria, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Iran, all spoke to support the appeal.

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World countries could not be bound by Western cations on human rights. The Dalai Lama said neither he nor a majority of Asians agreed with this view.

In other developments:

— President Bill Clinton defended U.S. air raids in Somalia but called on the U.N. to make sure that the killing of Somali demonstrators by Pakistani troops is not repeated.

Mr. Clinton also said that there was some question about Sunday's shooting deaths.

"We expect the United Nations to take every possible step to ensure that U.N. peacekeepers do not cause injury or death to the people of Somalia," the president said.

Italian Defence Minister Fabio Fabbri said that U.N. officials had assured him that they

would take measures to avoid further loss of civilian lives.

Supporters of Somali warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed stage an anti-U.N. demonstration in Mogadishu Tuesday (AFP photo)

Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1993

Hashish, opium fields trashed in Lebanon's biggest crackdown

DIER AL AHMAR, Lebanon (R) — Hundreds of acres of Marijuana and opium fields in the Bekaa Valley, one of the world's major narcotics-growing regions, have been destroyed in the government's biggest crackdown on the drugs trade, the government said Tuesday.

The virtual destruction of Lebanon's narcotics trade, worth by conservative estimate around \$500 million a year and probably far more, should cut off a major source of drugs to Western Europe, the United States, Israel and the Arab World.

"All hashish and marijuana fields have been obliterated," Health Minister Marwan Hamadeh told the Associated Press.

"Today, Lebanon is reassured that law, justice and morality have come back to the nation," he said.

Destroying the narcotics trade "is very important to us because it changes Lebanon's image to the whole world," he stressed. "It indicates our country is recovering" from the 1975-90 civil war.

That marked a significant breakthrough for Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's Syrian-backed government in its drive to stamp out corruption and crime.

The fields, which produced around five tonnes of heroin and 700 to 800 tonnes of hashish a year, were plowed under by the growers themselves after the government gave them until dawn Tuesday to do so or face military action.

Security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said earlier that by daybreak 90 per cent of the narcotics crop in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa in east Lebanon had been eradicated in the crackdown launched May 10.

More than 1,000 Lebanese troops and hundred of gendarmes backed by heavily armed Syrian forces were involved in the drive to smash narcotics rings and other smuggling operations that flourished during the civil war.

Reporters touring the narcotics centres around the ancient Roman city of Baalbek and the neighbouring Hermel and Deir Al Ahmar regions saw vast tracts of bulldozed marijuana and opium fields along 60 kilometres stretch of Lebanon's border with Syria Tuesday.

Marijuana is the base for hashish and heroin is made from opium poppies.

The security sources said they expected the remaining 10 per cent of the narcotics-growing re-

Jerusalem Express credit card launched

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A "omesic" businessman who returned here from the United States has launched the first Palestinian credit card, Jerusalem Express, which features a photograph of the Holy City.

"The card's goal is to improve the Palestinian economy and to allow Palestinian money to stay in Palestinian hands," said the card's founder, 34-year-old Jalal Al Hindi.

Mr. Hindi returned to his native Jerusalem with his family in October after working 25 years for American Express in both Akron, Ohio, and Miami. "I was homesick," he said.

"I already had the experience and I got the idea when I came back here," said Mr. Hindi, an American of Palestinian origin.

It took him five months before Israeli officials approved the venture in May and the cards went into use this week.

His Jerusalem National Express Company had 10,000 printed in the United States, and more than 200 stores in East Jerusalem honour them. There are also plans to distribute the card in the West Bank cities of Nablus, Ramallah, and Hebron as well as in the Gaza Strip.

"We want to be present in the entire occupied territories, then distribute it in Arab countries and even in the rest of the world," he said.

Inhabitants of the Israeli-occupied territories previously could obtain credit cards if they deposited money in Israeli banks but few so far their deposits would be seized by tax authorities.

Few Palestinians merchants would accept the credit card for the same reasons.

"In the beginning, we had some difficulties because many Palestinians had never used a credit card and thought that we were a lending institution," he added.

Those applying must be at least 18 years old and pay \$70 in membership fees. After a month-long inquiry, the company sets a credit limit and payments must be reimbursed 30 days later.

The company takes a commission of between one and five per cent.

The trade centre blast killed six people and wounded more than

100 die in Afghan mudslide

KABUL (AFP) — Some 100 people were killed and more were missing feared dead after a mudslide triggered by break rains swept away some 250 houses in Kabul, city Mayor Fazl Karem Aimaq said Tuesday.

Armed groups took the opportunity to fire on the capital with machine-guns and rockets under cover of the thunderstorm that caused the disaster late Monday, local residents said.

An entire family of 11 was wiped out after being trapped by the flash-flood of mud in their basement where they had sheltered for protection from the rocket barrage.

"There will be emergency assistance to families of 10,000 afghanis (\$10) for every martyr," said Mr. Fazl Karem, who personally tramped through the mud to inspect the disaster area.

The mayor, whose personnel were working with local security

troops to clear the area, said his office would also issue a bread ration three times a day to the homeless, and a commission would meet soon to assess the total damage.

The worst-affected were those of the old city where houses are built up the steep slopes of the adjacent Sherdawaza mountain peak.

One resident, Abdul Mohammad, said his four-year-old daughter was killed in the mudslide and two other daughters were still buried. Two sons were pulled out of the mud after being trapped for an hour and he only had one room left of his 13-room two-storey house.

Abdul Mohammad described the sudden intense storm as "the worst in memory." He said no one else had the time to help him dig for his two missing daughters.

Local people said the unofficial death count of 100 at noon Tues-

day would rise as rescue workers and families cleared away all the mud, which was up to two metres deep in some houses.

Some of the damage was caused by large boulders washed down from the mountain-top, which sliced through houses leaving parts of private living quarters exposed like external verandas.

Roofing beams blocked all footpaths, some with the twisted remains of ceiling fans still attached, with furniture, kitchen utensils and rugs scattered down the mountain slope like confetti on the ground.

The force of the moving mud was so great that five large shipping containers used for storage, one with a car inside, were swept off their foundations and shifted some 15 metres down the hill until they became wedged in a natural stream bed next to the local cemetery.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwaiti speaker rebuffs Yemen

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti parliament speaker, in remarks published Tuesday, gave a cool response to Yemen's attempt to improve ties strained during the Gulf crisis. "We should carefully study any reconciliation with any regime which opposed Kuwait's autonomy during the Iraqi crisis," Ahmad Al Saadoun was quoted as saying. "Any contacts with the Yemeni government should be carefully and cautiously considered," he told a weekly briefing for Kuwaiti journalists. The new Yemeni foreign minister, Mohammad Salem Basindou, told Kuwaiti newspapers earlier this month his country wanted to mend strained relations with other Gulf Arab states. Yemen lost vital financial aid after Arab states accused it of siding with Iraq over its 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait. Mr. Basindou expressed hope that a new coalition formed after united Yemen's first multi-party elections in April would help the country break out of its international isolation. Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah has welcomed Mr. Basindou's conciliatory remarks. Opposition veteran Saadoun strongly criticised the position adopted by the Yemeni government and its U.N. representative at the Security Council during the crisis, and news reports said formation of a new government did not mean the Yemeni "regime" had changed, he said.

Rebels kill 4 children in Turkish raid

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Rebel Kurds have killed four children and two women from one family in an attack on a village in south east Turkey, officials said Tuesday. The officials, reporting a string of attacks on civilian targets Monday, said four other people were wounded in the attack in Gozluce village in Sirte province. Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels ended a unilateral truce in their nine-year campaign for independence last week after accusing the government of ignoring their goodwill gesture. Officials said that in other raids on Monday, the rebels shot dead a village religious leader in Baglarbas village in Tunceli province and burned down school buildings there and in a nearby village. The rebels killed one villager and wounded another in Ucpinar village in Bingol province and kidnapped three villagers, one of them a guard, the officials added. Nearly 6,200 people have been killed in incidents related to the PKK independence campaign.

Syrian hanged in death of policeman

DAMASCUS (AP) — A 24-year-old man accused of running a network of corruption was hanged in one of Damascus' main squares early Tuesday for the murder of a policeman, reports said. Al Baath newspaper said Nabil Salam struck the officer in the head and then shot him with his own gun in December 1991 at a house used as headquarters for rackets including gambling, illegal alcohol and prostitution. Another officer was wounded when the policeman confronted an intoxicated Salam after hearing him shouting obscene words while quarrelling with members of his gang late one night, the paper said. The wounded policeman managed to apprehend one of the gang members, who pleaded guilty and identified his accomplices. Three others received sentences of two years at hard labour, Al Baath said.

Israelis beat soldier at checkpoint

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli motorists forced to halt at an army checkpoint in the occupied West Bank Monday beat a soldier until troops fired warning shots to stop them, an army spokeswoman said. "A soldier at a roadblock near Tarqumia in the Hebron area fired into the air to stop a car which appeared suspicious and whose occupants refused order to halt," the spokeswoman said. "The two Israelis in the car got out and beat the soldier until others fired in the air to stop them," she said. She said the extent of the soldier's injuries was unknown. The two men, residents of southern Israel, were detained and handed over to police. The car bore the yellow number plates issued to Israelis, she said. Palestinians' cars in the West Bank bear blue plates. The army has ordered closer scrutiny of cars bearing Israeli number plates since cars with yellow plates were tied this year to guerrilla ambush killings of troops and police.

Israeli soldiers detain Reuters cameraman

OCCUPIED GAZA (R) — Israeli troops detained a Reuters television cameraman in an occupied Gaza Strip refugee camp Monday, residents said. They said cameraman Bassam Abdulla was detained when he arrived at the scene of a fragmentation grenade attack on an Israeli patrol in Rafah camp in the southern strip. Soldiers broke and confiscated his video camera, they said. The incident took place near Mr. Abdulla's home, as Abdulla was led away troops severely beat his sister when she tried to follow, residents said. An army spokeswoman said that before the grenade attack guerrillas had opened fire with automatic weapons on an Israeli foot patrol in the camp. There were no injuries. She said the grenade was then thrown on a second force sent to help search for the shooters. Troops closed the area and detained Mr. Abdulla and at least nine other Palestinians, residents said.

Moderate quake shakes eastern Turkey

ERZINCAN (AP) — A moderate earthquake shook parts of eastern Turkey, but there were no reports of damage or injuries, the Anatolia news agency said Tuesday. The agency said the tremor measured 5.5 on Richter scale and struck the provinces of Erzincan, Elazig and Tunceli at 11:00 p.m. (2000 GMT) Monday. It was also felt in northern coastal province of Trabzon, it added.

Turkey's Aegean and Mediterranean coastal areas and the entire eastern region sit atop an earthquake-prone belt known as the Anatolian Fault. A strong earthquake killed about 500 people in this eastern city in 1992. The Richter scale is a gauge of energy released by an earthquake, as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph.

U.N. envoy on Sahara meets King Hassan

RABAT (R) — United Nations special envoy for Western Sahara Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan conferred with King Hassan and government leaders in the Rahat palace Monday, the official news agency MAP said. It gave no details of their talks which follow a visit to the area early this month by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to promote a compromise settlement of the conflict in the former Spanish colony.

Jerusalem could be stumbling block in peace talks

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israelis and Palestinians held out hopes Sunday for a deal during the new round of Middle East peace talks starting this week, but the status of Jerusalem loomed as the major roadblock.

Israel does not want the topic broached in the declaration of principles that both sides hope to agree on during the talks set to begin Tuesday in Washington.

Asked if the city would even be mentioned, Israeli negotiator Jacques Neriah said, "No, not in our version, it will not be accepted in any version."

For the Palestinians, an Israeli commitment to at least discussing the future of the eastern sector of the city is a key emotional issue.

"I know that most of the obstacles and problems they are putting up at this moment

are simply decoys to keep away from the real issue, which is Jerusalem," Sari Nuseibeh, chief adviser to the Palestinian negotiators, told the Associated Press.

Dr. Nuseibeh warned that the talks could collapse over this issue, since Palestinians consider East Jerusalem their permanent capital.

Elsewhere, there are clues that the two sides might find some common ground.

Dr. Nuseibeh said that Israeli hints at not slicing up the occupied territories during the interim autonomy period and offering limited legislative powers meant some form of self-rule could emerge.

If we looked upon them as final offers, it would be terrible and frustrating, but if we look upon them as bargaining positions, then all right, we can see progress and movement," he said.

One proposal the Israelis might make is "early empowerment" — quickly taking control of everything in the

occupied territories except the security, foreign relations and the settlements holding 120,000 Israelis. The Israelis have said the process could begin in the Gaza Strip.

Palestinians reject both. They want Gaza to be part of the complete package. Palestinians said turning over administrative control over separate fields, where virtually all of the employees are already Palestinian, is meaningless without an overall framework.

The Palestinians want an agreement that specifies both what power they will get under autonomy, and the goals of talks supposed to start three years hence about the final status of the occupied territories.

Because Jerusalem has been sealed off from the rest of the occupied territories for nearly three months after 15 Israelis were killed in March, the Palestinians fear that it will be permanently eliminated from discussions.

The negotiations involve

dom of movement between peoples? Do you mean embassies? This is what the Syrians have to explain to us," said Mr. Neriah, a diplomatic advisor to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"Syria has not introduced anything new since the beginning of these negotiations," he said, although the two sides have made some progress in agreeing on security arrangements.

Mr. Rabin said Sunday that he wished the talks were faster, but added, "I think that both we and some of the Arab states have made the point of no return on the way to peace."

Israel goes to the talks slightly heartened by tantalising Arab messages that peace might be possible. Officials point to the rare interview in May by Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad hinting he was interested in peace, and the appointment of former negotiator Abdul Salam Majali as Jordan's prime minister.

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Crown Prince meets with world human rights activists

VIENNA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday met in Vienna with Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and discussed with him scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Austria.

The chancellor commended Prince Hassan's participation in the World Conference on Human Rights which opened in Vienna Monday and underscored the importance of the Crown Prince's speech at the opening ceremony.

In his address Monday, Prince Hassan called on the international community to affirm the indivisibility of human rights, saying civil and political rights should go

hand in hand with economic, social and cultural rights. (See full text of the Crown Prince's speech, P. 4)

Earlier, Prince Hassan received at his residence in the Austrian capital U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali who thanked the Prince for his participation to the conference.

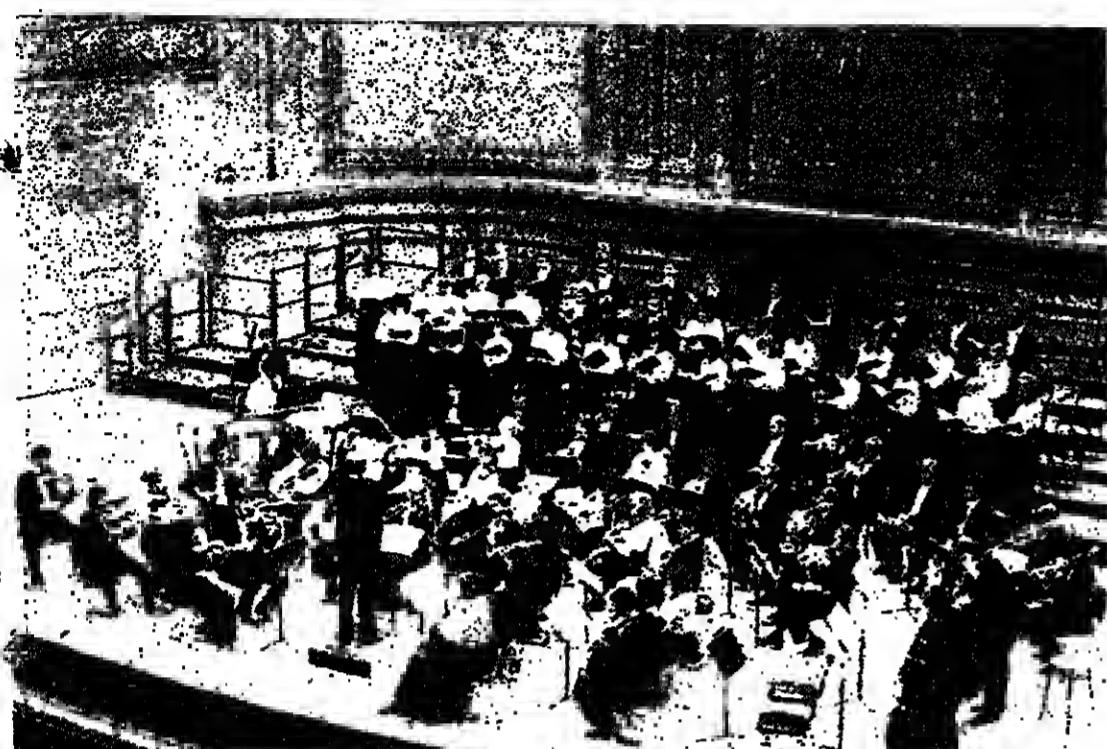
The Crown Prince also received former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, the Yemeni foreign minister, the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at the conference and the Austrian foreign minister.

He also met with representa-

tives of non-governmental organisations participating in the conference. Jordan's delegation headed by Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, the Mauritanian prime minister and the Moroccan minister of culture.

Discussions at the meetings centred on issues of common interest and the current world conference.

Prince Hassan Tuesday returned home from Vienna and was received at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal several royal family members, Acting Prime Minister Maan Abu Nuwar, and senior officials.



New England Youth Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in New York

A promise to delight listeners

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — If piano recitals are great, concerts with a full-size sympathetic orchestra are even greater; at least for music lovers in Jordan, who are often treated to solo instrument recitals rather than such orchestral performances.

Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor and presented by the National Music Conservatory-Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the American Centre in Amman, in cooperation with Speaking Professionally and Rawdat Al Maaref Schools, the New English Youth Orchestra and Chor... will give two major concerts in the country. The first will be on Thursday June 17, at Al Hassan Bin Talal Auditorium at the University of Jordan; the second on Saturday June 19, at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Seventy musicians, forming the American ensemble promise to delight their listeners with beautiful classical music.

Composed mainly of young artists, with an average age of 17, the orchestra was established by conductor and composer Virginia Green-Rittenhouse. Motivated by spiritual values that they want to communicate through their music, the ensemble's members seem to follow Bach's saying that music should be "to the glory of God and the refreshment of the spirit."

Young, but with an already impressive experience, the youth orchestra has performed in many countries and major venues from the United States, China and the Russian Federation.

Several of its members are first prize winners of international music competitions. Countless radio engagement and TV appearances have won them

unanimous recognition.

One element contributing to their success is certainly their choice of pleasant programmes. Sampling one of their live recordings one can listen to Handel's Overture to the Royal Fireworks, Vivaldi's Winter from the Four Seasons, Rossini's Overture to William Tell, and Bizet's Toreador from Carmen.

The appeal does not only come from their tasteful choice of the music, but also from their talented and joyful interpretation of it.

The selection they have made for Amman's concerts include Handel, Vivaldi, Beethoven, Prokofiev and Mozart, to name only a few.

After a season rich in quality concerts, the National Music Conservatory is confirming its successful efforts to promote great music in Jordan, in all its forms and to all ages.

Jerusalem and a tradition of tolerance

By Susan Ghoshesh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At a time of distrust and animosity between Arabs and Jews, participants at a lecture, entitled "Jerusalem: Notes on the Origin of the City and the Tradition of Tolerance," recalled the history of coexistence of the two peoples in the holy city.

Panelist, Kamil Al Asali, author and editor of books and articles on Jerusalem, said "it was only with the advent of Islam that Jews were permitted to live as an autonomous but small community" in the city.

He cited the history of the city, quoting the Bible as well as Western and Israeli historians, giving examples of what he described as "traditional Islamic tolerance" for the "people of the book" — Christians and Jews.

Prior to speaking about coexistence, Dr. Asali felt it necessary to dismantle the "Jewish-Jerusalem" notion, the widespread belief that the city was founded by the Jews, and to emphasise that the Arabs of Jerusalem, as of all of Palestine, are in their majority the descendants of those who lived in the city since "time immemorial."

Despite claims by Israelis that the age of the city dates back to the proclamation of David as King of Jerusalem in 1000 B.C., Dr. Asali points out that the holy city was established 2,000 years prior to that date.

"At the time of the Davidic occupation, Jerusalem was already two thousand years old. Its original inhabitants were not definitely Jews, but were Canaanites, Amorites, Jebusites, Hittites and of other races — peoples who had their own

cultures and languages, their art, industry and agriculture — it did not belong to the people of Israel."

The oldest name of the city, "Urusalim" is Amorite, which when translated to English means "founded by Salem," an Amorite god, Dr. Asali, a professor of philosophy, said.

He added using the Bible as a reference, that Amorites, an offshoot of the Canaanites who came originally from the Arabian peninsula, are the original people of the holy city.

At the time of the "first Israeli occupation of Jerusalem," the city, according to Dr. Asali, was ruled by the Jebusites, were not expelled and they lived "side by side" with the Bengaminites: the first evidence of coexistence.

Still, of the five thousand years of the age of Jerusalem, the Jews, Dr. Asali said, were a majority for only 1,135 years; about one fifth of the "whole life of the city," and ruled it for only 600 years.

As for the remaining years, the Jews lived as a "tiny minority" in Jerusalem, except under the Byzantine rule in which they "virtually disappeared," he stated.

Dr. Asali said "it is one of the big ironies of fate that it was the Muslim rulers of Jerusalem who allowed the Jews to return to the city," on four different occasions: after the Arab conquest of the city by the Byzantines in the seventh century, after the recapture of Jerusalem from the Crusaders in 1187, after the occupation of the city by the Ottomans in 1516 and when it opened its doors to accept Jews fleeing from Spain, and during the wake of the persecution of Jews in Europe in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Zionist occupation, he affirmed, left no room for peace, and "consistent barbed developed in the holy land."

Whenever Western Christians

gained control of the city, Jews were persecuted and expelled, but when Muslims ruled it, Jews "lived in peace..." Jews were even allowed to work as attendants in the Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest shrine in Islam," he asserted.

Dr. Asali quoted a Jewish historian, Heinrich Graetz, describing the tolerance of Saladin, the leader who recaptured Jerusalem in 1187, saying that Saladin "opened the whole of his kingdom to the persecuted Jews, so they came to it, seeking security and finding justice."

In addition, he quoted professor A. Cohen of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem speaking about 10th century Jerusalem where he said "an autonomous Jewish life in Jerusalem was encouraged and protected by Muslim rulers."

Dr. Asali ended his presentation on a sad note, stating that "with the advent of the 20th century everything has changed. The good relations between Arabs and Jews became a thing of the past."

He attributes this change in attitude to what he saw as an alliance between Israel and the West to "conquer" the country.

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Shipping line to buy 15,000 tonne vessel

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan National Shipping Line (JNSL) plans to purchase a 1980-built 15,000 tonne cargo vessel from Italy to help speed up exports of Jordanian phosphate in bulk to India, according to JNSL Director General Yasser Tall.

Mr. Tall told the Jordan Times Wednesday that the JNSL board has approved the purchase of the Italian ship, to be called "Al Hassa," at a cost of \$4 million.

The vessel can boost the transportation of phosphate, mined in the south of the country, to India and bring back goods from other countries to Jordan, said Mr. Tall.

Immediately upon its expected arrival in the harbour at Aqaba in July the vessel will be turned over to the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) which is chartering it to export phosphate in bulk, he said.

India is the main importer of Jordanian phosphate, buying \$150 million worth of the mineral annually.

Noting that the JNSL plans to purchase more cargo vessels in the team future for exports of Jordanian phosphate as well as other products, Mr. Tall said the JNSL is self-financing its ship purchases and its operations.

"Now we own three cargo ves-

sels, but we charter several others

from time to time to help ensure

the flow of phosphate to imports,

especially in Asia, and to meet

the JPMC commitments to the

other countries," noted Mr. Tall.

He said the JNSL is in need of

more vessels to make up for the

reduction of the number of cargo

vessels coming to Aqaba recently

as a result of the "harassment and

blocking" inspection operations

and delays in the delivery of

goods," he added.

Mr. Tall was referring to the

U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq

which have resulted in inspec-

tions by U.S. naval enforcers and

the diversion of many cargo ves-

sels from their Aoaba destination.

One of the three JNSL-owned

vessels is an oil tanker stationed

permanently at the port of Aqaba

and holding crude oil in reserve.

House denounces death sentence passed on Jordanians by Kuwait

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday issued a statement, denouncing the death sentences passed by a Kuwaiti court last week against 10 Jordanian citizens and appealed to world organisations and human rights groups to interfere and block the execution of these citizens and secure their release.

It is sad to bear such court decisions being passed against Arab citizens, particularly Jordanians and Palestinians, because they are innocent people who had served the emir faithfully for many years," said the parliament statement.

The verdict lacks validity and does not hinge on legal grounds, but rather violates all norms and human rights principles, it added.

Several of those sentenced to death are students who could not have had anything to do with the alleged conspiracy with the Iraqis," continued the statement.

The House appeals to world

organisations to use their good offices to secure the release of

these innocent citizens and other Jordanians who are detained for no reason except that they were in Kuwait during the Gulf crisis," said the statement.

It said these citizens have been cooperating closely with the Kuwaiti citizens, serving the emirate loyally and have never con-

spired against the state.

The statement was sent to the Arab Parliamentary Union, the International Parliamentary Union, the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna (meeting this week), the secretary-general of the United Nations and the Arab League secretary general.

Pardoning these accused men would no doubt help safeguard the Arab nation's image before the world, and would enhance the principle of human rights and the cause of justice, said Mr. Lawzi in his cables.

Pardons will no doubt reflect positively on Kuwait and its reputation and lead in further steps aimed at healing rifts among Arab countries, he added.

Mr. Lawzi also received in his office a delegation representing the Taamreh tribes of the West Bank.

Several members of the tribe are among those sentenced to death in Kuwait. He said Jordan was doing all it can to block the executions.

Students' unions seek unification

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Heads of students' unions from different Arab and Islamic countries Tuesday called for a unification of Arab students' movements. They voiced their dissatisfaction with what they see as the inefficient role the International Islamic Students' Unions are playing in Europe and U.S. and insisted that students should be involved in current problems and challenges facing the Arab and Islamic nation.

"Educational policies in the Arab World are behind Arab students' fear, cowardice and lack of vision," said Waddah Khanfar, director of the Arab World Office of the International Islamic Federation of Students' Organisations (IISF), at the first session of a two-day seminar entitled "The University We Want," held at the Royal Cultural Centre.

In his opening speech, Minister of Education and Higher Education Khalid Al Omari stressed the importance of expanding the basis of students' participation and expressed hope that "this

will develop positive ties between students' organisations and official institutions."

Heads of students' unions from various Islamic countries — Sudan, Yemen, Tunis, Mauritania, Egypt and Jordan — insisted on the need to upgrade students' status in terms of playing an active role in facing current problems encountered by the Arab and Muslim world, and called for a clearer and definite role for students.

"We must seek to unify students' movements," said Salah Eddin Zein, head of the Sudanese Students' Union, during the discussion hour. "Students' action should also be expanded and known to the public instead of being confined only to the campus."

The head of the Tunisian Students' Union, Riad Hijawi, expressed concern over Arab students' situation abroad, in Europe and the United States, saying that they (students) fled the oppressive measures and pursuits of Arab governments only to encounter critical financial and social difficulties while the Islamic nation.

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will develop positive ties between students' organisations and official institutions."

Established in 1989, the occupational therapy college is a joint venture undertaken by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and the King Hussein Medical Centre.

Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd

Ben Zeid is to be appointed for the Queen at the graduation ceremony.

Occupational therapy is the treatment of physical and psychiatric conditions through specific selected activities designed to help patients attain a maximum level of function and independence in all aspects of daily life, following illness, injury or surgery according to a college statement.

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New hope for Vienna

THE WORLD conference on human rights may not be heading to a disaster after all judging by the atmosphere that dominated the beginning of the deliberations in Vienna. It appears that the various regional groupings which formulated their respective positions in the pre-conference meetings were more interested in jockeying for bargaining posture vis-a-vis one another than submitting their final say on their human rights perspectives.

According to reports reaching us from Vienna, there are still four shades of stances on human rights ranging from the Western countries on one extreme and the Asian group on the other. Sandwiched between are the African and Latin American states with the Africans closer to the Asians and the Latin Americans closer to the Western alliance on human rights.

Till this point in time there appears to be no distinct Arab position on the agenda of the Vienna conference. Instead the Islamic nations are busy formulating their own peculiar interpretation of human rights with a strong accent on their particular cultural and religious heritage as a factor that they view as an excuse to apply on them less rigidly the already adopted norms and standards on human rights. In his statement to the conferees Monday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan referred to the different cultural and religious heritages of nations and called upon such diversity to enrich mankind's attitude towards human rights endeavours rather than serve as a pretext to violate basic human rights, which he described as universally applicable. On this note, there seems to be a consensus emerging and the participants in the Vienna meeting that fundamental human rights must be universally applicable. The right to development, a point repeatedly mentioned by various speakers, is now accepted as a legitimate goal that is on par with other dimensions of human rights. Here again Prince Hassan's message was loud and clear when he said that the world needs a multi-disciplinary approach to human rights pursuits including the right to development as also a basic objective that would complement the pursuit of the other dimensions. But under no circumstance should this be exploited to justify violations of basic human rights in other fields.

Although it is much too early to judge which way the conference is heading, a sense of optimism is slowly replacing the initial pessimism that nothing much will emerge from the Vienna meeting. If the different groups of nations are indeed committed to their current positions for only bargaining strategies, then all cannot be lost at the end of the day. At least we all hope so.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB Arabic daily Tuesday called for immediate intervention by the United States to ensure a successful ending to the 10th round of Arab-Israeli talks in Washington. Yitzhak Rabin has been issuing statements to the effect that Israel does not contemplate full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and does not want to give any concession to the Palestinians, said the paper. In light of such statements, the Arab parties to the 10th round have the right to be apprehensive about the outcome of the negotiations which are starting today and await a genuine and meaningful effort on the part of the United States to ensure Israel's compliance with the requirements of peace, said the daily. There is no doubt, the paper said, that the King's visit to the United States this week and his talks with the American president would give impetus to the talks. But on the whole, said the paper, there can be no going back from the path of peace which should be approached with a united Arab front and a clear pursuit of the rights of the Palestinian and other Arab parties, added the paper.

SULTAN AL HATTAB, a columnist in AJ Ra'i daily, voiced anger and disgust at the death sentences passed on the Palestinian, Jordanian citizens living Kuwait and at those passed on Egyptians and Egyptians in their own countries. All those who have been sentenced to death are Arab citizens and not foreign invaders of Arab land and therefore should be treated at least with mercy and given prison sentences, nothing more, demanded the writer. He said he does not support violent actions like those the Egyptians and the Algerian Islamists have resorted to in their fight against their respective regimes, but he does not approve of death sentences either, because such sentences, he said, should be considered as violating human rights. For sure, the Kuwaitis are violating human rights principles by summarily sentencing to death ordinary citizens who were never proved to have helped the Iraqis invade Kuwait, the writer continued. There is a great deal of injustice and human rights violations going on in the Arab World nowadays simply because the ruling regimes do not tolerate any opposition or criticism of their rule, he said. We in Arab countries, but we also do not condone violence and oppose the use of force in toppling regimes, the writer continued.

Economic Forum

New government's dilemma

To tax or not to tax?

So far, the government has been lucky enough to start "business" with a tax hike without inviting a popular outcry. Actually, the first decisions the government made were those related to this hike. Now, this is not only luck but also courage.

The hike under question refers to the broadening of the base of the consumption tax and the rise in the electricity tariff as well as in the price of fuel oil and kerosene. To be fair, the economic crew in the new government made their best to convince the IMF delegation to discard the tax increase, but that attempt did not work. The IMF people had arrived in Amman when the new government was formed and the negotiations took place over the holiday of the Feast of Sacrifice. The IMF people even turned down a proposal to compress public expenditures by an amount equivalent to the proceeds of the required tax increase. But the Jordanians seemed to have successfully resisted a demand for raising the water tariff, at least for the time being.

The general sales tax was shelved, but that is a formality without substance. The question is to levy or not to levy new taxes. Whether the new taxes are called sales tax, consumption tax or whatever, is completely immaterial.

To soften the impact of the new taxes on consumers, the official view went to say that the increase in the electricity tariff would affect only those who consume more than 300 kw per month. This is an empty argument. Consumers buy more than that amount are commonly the industrial, agricultural and commercial businesses which turn out the goods and services bought by the consumers. These will surely pass the cost increase consequent on the higher tariff to the consumers as they do not allow it to erode their profit margins. Similarly, the consumer will end up paying the additional consumption tax and, of course, the extra costs of fuel oil.

From now and until 1998, the end of the present adjustment programme, the government will have to keep on increasing taxes and fees as to meet the fiscal targets decreed in that programme. The government cannot break away with this programme even if it finds that it is necessary to do so, simply because it does not have the foreign exchange needed to pay the external loans which mature every now and then and which will, under the programme, be successively rescheduled. As Jordan will not suddenly have the necessary funds in 1999, a new adjustment programme will have

to be launched, as was the case in Egypt.

So far, we have tried to evade the thorny problem of high costs of living which is being aggravated by the ever-increasing taxes, by talking about the rate of inflation. This rate measures the annual change in the index of costs of living. It thus may subside, as it did in 1991, and even may grind down to zero, without meaning that the problem of high cost of living has disappeared. To really harness this socio-economic problem, the costs of living should decline. This is a very remote possibility in practical terms. Prices may drop in a given year but they rarely do that on any sustainable basis. The other means to counter high costs of living is too boost real per capita incomes, which is the crux of economic development challenge.

The historical evidence shows clearly that the era of inflation was the painful direct outcome of the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar. As the vicious effects of that devaluation fade away, rates of inflation tend to slow down. It is not that these rates are intolerable, but their association with unemployment has made them destructive. The policy of more and more taxes is aggravating an already harsh situation.

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

'We can, we must, we will commit ourselves to building a truly global ethic of respect for human rights and dignity'

Following is His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's address at the World Conference on Human Rights that opened in Vienna on June 14, 1993.

WE HAVE gathered at the World Conference on Human Rights to strengthen our individual and collective efforts to ensure respect for the human rights and dignity of every child, woman and man. In this task we represent those who are not here with us, those millions who are tortured by starvation, or imprisoned behind the bars of prejudice and discrimination, and those facing death, physical abuse or incarceration for their beliefs. We speak not only for ourselves, but also for the voiceless still denied their right to self-determination, or suffering the abuse of prolonged foreign occupation. We act on behalf of the one quarter of our human family forced to live in poverty and deprivation, as well as of the dispossessed and those forced to flee their homelands, seeking refuge and international protection, but all too often finding asylum a mirage beyond their reach. We speak also for those yet to come: We are responsible for the future that awaits our children and humanity as a whole. Abuses of human rights offend the dignity not only of the victims, but of us all. We are members of one family — humanity — sharing our one Earth in common. At great cost we have learned the importance of caring for the Earth. We must also learn to care for those who live upon it.

It is our duty to ensure that this meeting goes beyond mere rhetoric and inspires an active commitment to universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. The differences in our political ideologies and in the economic models we have adopted have sometimes impeded consensus amongst us. But we are not here to talk about politics, but about rights; not about economic theories, but about justice and equitable access to available resources.

In this we have the benefit of the diversity of our faiths and cultures which will act as a rich resource in our search for a consensus based on our common humanity. President Mary Robinson has recently called for a listening approach to human rights. We must heed her words here in our deliberations and listen to each other and be respectful of each other's points of view, mindful that in our various traditions the approaches we adopt in the process of consensus building might themselves differ.

This task of consensus building is critical. In these transitional post-cold war times, we need a joint commitment to meet the challenges of an emerging world order. Human rights represent a touchstone, a yardstick by which the success of our endeavours can be judged. Our aim should not be simply to reach a compromise between differing or conflicting views; but to find a common vision, a framework for global action, a consensus for the future of humankind.

Human rights issues are the

legitimate concern of the international community under the U.N. Charter. All states therefore have a responsibility — and indeed an interest — to promote universal respect for human rights. But if human rights criteria are to be the foundation of justice in their monitoring should be seen to be objective. Accountability must be based on internationally recognised legal norms, and not on a particular state's subjective value judgement. For selective condemnation serves only to perpetuate conflict and hamper potential reconciliation.

We have a unique opportunity at this conference to recommit the indivisibility of all rights and to commit ourselves to strengthening the implementation not

consider how to bridge the divide between the aspirations of these legal texts, and the realities of people's lives. For despite our achievements, many categories of human rights violations have yet to be eliminated.

We need to move on from the mere iteration of human wrongs to promoting human rights — right relationship between states and their peoples, and mutual respect among individuals. This requires a pro-active approach focused on effective strategies for the prevention of violations, including the promotion of a human rights framework for policy-making, education in human rights and responsibilities, and the empowerment of individuals and peoples so that they live in dignity, protected by their rights.

We need to adopt a holistic approach which can embrace the interdependence of all human beings and the indivisibility of all human rights; and which can address social inequalities and environmental concerns, both national and international, in the idiom of human rights. This means protecting and respecting not only civil and political rights, but also the economic, social and cultural rights that are their practical foundations.

We need more public awareness programmes, backed up at the international level by the ratification of treaties and the commitment of resources. But is this sufficient? It seems that we need something more profound — a shift in our thinking so that humanity, rather than economic consideration, can be central to our goals both as governments and as individuals.

Such an ethic is essential if we wish to deal effectively with the myriad of new challenges facing us. We need think only of the increasingly apparent human dimensions of the environmental crisis; the sore testing of our compassion and humanity by the widening AIDS pandemic; the growing technological and economic divide between North and South; or the difficulties of containing religious intolerance which threatens the mutual understanding so critically needed in our increasingly multicultural societies.

The human spirit is under siege, our instinct of neighbourly love threatened by the onslaught of hatred, intolerance, greed and cynicism. The world cries out for inspiration, but is floundering in its search for guidance, for a way forward.

Can human rights values provide that light to guide us? Can the candle of hope rekindle our human solidarity and love? Can we build a truly global ethic of respect for human rights and dignity which shapes not only international action, and that of governments, but also our own actions as individuals? How can we move beyond the paucity of spirit caused by excessive materialism?

In the words of the Arab poet Al-Mutanabi:

"He who squanders his days collecting money,
For fear of poverty,
Poverty is what be has attained."

This view has been echoed recently by Nobel peace laureate and prisoner of conscience Aung San Suu Kyi who writes "material yardsticks alone cannot serve as an adequate measure of human well-being." She reminds us that "even as basic an issue as poverty has to be reexamined to take into account the psychological sense of deprivation that makes people feel poor." She warns us that a "narrowly focused materialism that seeks to block out all considerations apparently irrelevant to one's own well-being tends finally to block out what is in fact most relevant."

Considerations of this sort were behind the shift of United Nations Development Program.

"Human rights are universal in that they are possessed by all members of the human family, regardless of differences of gender, race, religion, politics or any other distinguishing characteristic. These rights form a core minimum standard binding on all states."

It is important that "the new world order" everybody is now talking about, is essentially humanitarian in content and intent. In the final analysis, it is humanitarian problems, affecting the lives of millions of our fellow human beings, which are the products of violations of human rights as well as the ultimate challenge to supporters of those rights. The growing number of increasingly complex humanitarian issues is a tragic comment on our times. It is therefore not surprising that, during the preparatory meetings prior to this conference, a number of governments highlighted the nexus between human rights and humanitarian issues. It is incumbent upon us, individually and collectively, to build the human solidarity in favour of human rights and care.

The potential for such a global ethic is inherent in our common humanity and the values shared by our faiths — the avoidance of harm to others, compassion and neighbourly love. Together with the values in which human rights are based — recognition of equal human dignity and worth, mutual respect, tolerance and justice — we have firm foundations for that ethic based on an inclusive approach, one which brings women and men into equal partnership and listens to the voices of the young and others too frequently ignored.

We need a new vision — a vision which is grounded in self-criticism, in modesty, in self-criticism: a vision for a better world based on mutual respect, tolerance, compassion and human solidarity. We need to build a code of human conduct which informs professional interpersonal relationships and calls upon governors and governments alike to place respect for human rights and humanitarian principles at the very centre of their policies and actions.

A strong global ethic to shore up political wills is essential to ensure prompt action by the international community to respond to murder, rape and other atrocities or ethnic genocide, and to ensure that the perpetrators are

U.N. peacekeeping forces thrown into question by Somali, Bosnian cases

By Pierre Taillefer
Agence France Presse

PARIS — The recent setbacks to the U.N. forces in Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Cambodia have cast doubt on the whole business of peacekeeping, making diplomats wonder aloud if the world was not expecting the blue berets to perform the impossible.

In Somalia, the U.N. forces have retaliated for the killing of 23 of their soldiers by a series of U.S. air-strikes that have been widely criticised around the world. If the air-raids were not controversial enough, the Pakistani U.N. troops' killing of at least 14 demonstrators Sunday brought public confidence in the United Nations' role to a new low.

In Cambodia, the constitutional process seems deadlocked by the pro-communist government's refusal to accept defeat in last month's elections. While the U.N. mission won world acclaim for the conduct of those elections, its authority is rapidly dissolving in the face of continued political stalemate and the threat by sever-

al provinces to secede from Cambodia.

In Bosnia this weekend, U.N. commander General Philippe Morillon threatened a complete withdrawal of the blue berets if the warring parties did not cease-fire. His threat came at the end of a week which saw militiamen kill a Spanish soldier and strip a British reconnaissance patrol of

their weapons and flak-jackets.

The head of the French charity Medecins Sans Frontieres, Ronny Brauman, said of the United Nations' performance: "We are attacking the weak and retreating before the strong."

On the one hand, Mr. Brauman told French Radio Monday,

the U.N. forces were demonstrating "the political will to act as a sort of fatherly, imperial power in Somalia, while on the other hand (in Bosnia) they are exhibiting a kind of aristocratic haughtiness, a kind of cosmetic intervention which retreats as soon as the Serbs show their strength."

There is even disagreement among the contributing nations as to what the U.N. forces should be doing.

Features

Images from within and without distort Islam

Today's Muslims bear responsibility to set the record straight

On June 9, the Amman Baccalaureate School celebrated the graduation of the class of '93. Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, the school honorary president, had the following to tell the students before they head for their university studies:

MANY of you will, for the next few years, be living in foreign countries where you will be regarded as ambassadors of Jordan. You will have to represent your country with dignity and eloquence. You will find friendship and hospitality, but you will also come across prejudice and ignorance. Sadly, misconceptions about our part of the world abound, most commonly concerning the position of women and religious minorities in Islam, subjects which are always of interest to many, irrespective of their own race, gender or creed. I would like to put it to you that the responsibility rests with the Muslims of today and those of you who have grown up side by side with your Muslim contemporaries, all of us, to set the record straight.

We are all aware of the image of Islam in the West; a savage intolerant religion, a monolithic creed that is socially retrogressive, fundamentalist in inclination and irredeemably oppressive for women and minorities. But this is not the Islam that the Prophet Mohammad preached; nor is it the Islam of the Koran. But what are the facts? I would like to begin by examining the roots of the religion — its scripture, the revealed word of God, and the reported practices of its Prophet — to illuminate the intended and legitimate position of Muslim women and the attitude to non-Muslims, especially those who belong to the other monotheistic religions.

Islam responded to the abhorrent practices of 7th century Arabia: its idolatry, immorality, unashamed commercialism, its female infanticide, unrestrained polygamy, and its widespread denial of human rights. It was in a

real sense an iconoclastic social reform movement. The hostility that greeted the early Muslims is testimony of how it challenged the accepted orthodoxies, and the courage with which they bore this camey speaks with equal force to their belief in its progressive, liberating message. Everyone is familiar with the Bible's account of the creation of humanity. First Adam was created, and then, from the rib, God created Eve, as a companion for him. In this account, woman is secondary to man and derivative of man. In the Koran, on the other hand, the principle of creation is explicit: (in Sura 51 Verse 49):

"And of everything we have created pairs".

Neither man nor woman is secondary in the Koranic account of creation: they are, rather, dependent upon each other. Neither precedes the other. No priority or superiority is implicit or expressed. And if women and men were thus created equal by God, the ultimate arbiter of value, then equal they must remain.

There are many Hadiths of the Prophet that stress that there is no especial merit in having a boy child rather than a girl. In fact the Prophet said:

"Indeed, in spiritual terms, the Koran maintains this message of fundamental equality. It specifically addresses both men and women, giving them parallel roles and responsibilities in the spiritual life, and equal rewards and punishments for their actions.

For Islam, above all, preaches the dignity of each and every human soul. The Prophet Mohammad is reliably reputed to have said:

"All people are equal. They are all equal as the teeth on a comb".

"There is no claim of merit of an Arab over a non-Arab, or of a white over a black person, only God-fearing people merit a preference with God".

Among Islam's many innova-

tions were the guarantee of basic rights, including property rights, to oppressed groups such as women and slaves. This egalitarian structure is the bedrock of the religion's basic theology, and women who became the first converts played an active role in establishing the first Muslim communities; indeed, most of our knowledge of those communities can be traced in the accounts of women, such as the Prophet's wife Sayida Aisha.

One person is 10 on this earth is a Muslim woman. A phenomenon of this scale has consequences for everyone in our increasingly inter-dependent world; and a greater understanding of what it means to be a Muslim woman can therefore be of benefit to all.

Women were accorded rights in the social, political and economic spheres: the right of paid work, ownership, learning, dignity, liberty, thought, movement, marriage, inheritance, pilgrimage, jihad: all spheres of temporal life are equally open to all Muslims. There are numerous Hadiths of the Prophet on all of these topics which fully illustrate his tolerant and far-sighted views.

And while motherhood is physiologically exclusive to women, nothing in the Koran is exclusive to men. This brings to mind the tale of a bright young Muslim man who was offered a job in a company owned by a woman. Although he was ideally qualified for the position, and although it was precisely the job he sought, he felt it would be problematic to accept it, on the grounds that his religion did not permit him to work for a woman. A friend of his, on hearing this, reminded him that the Prophet Mohammad himself had worked for a woman, namely Sayida Khadija. Mortified, the young man took the job.

Although amusing, stories of this kind — which I am sad to say are not uncommon — illustrate the misconceptions that prevail on the position of women in Islam. The criterion is one of qualification, ability to do the

work. The relevant verse addresses the plight of orphans, and continues:

"Marry women of your choice, two, or three, or four; but if ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal justly with them, then only one".

(Sura 4, Verse 3)

However, later no in the very same Sura, it continues:

"And ye are never able

To be just and fair

As between women".

This is clearly open to multiple interpretations. It can be argued that if God so clearly states that men will not be able to treat more than one wife equally, then the conditions under which polygamy is acceptable should be seriously considered. As to divorce, although it is regarded as a necessary evil, no stigma is attached to a divorced woman in Islam.

Several Koranic verses clearly recognise women's rights to equality in marriage. On this basis, most schools of Islamic law have granted women the right to be empowered, by marriage contract, to initiate divorce or to stipulate their marriage conditions, including monogamy, financial compensation, rights to the custody of children, and so on. Unfortunately, Muslim women are rarely aware that they are entitled to stipulate any such conditions, although it is in full accordance with the Koran's emphasis on the equal worth of all human beings. It is also certainly consistent with Islam's recognition of the female right to control important aspects of their lives.

Before examining the Koranic injunction on the controversial subject of polygamy, it is worth bearing in mind that in ancient societies — Persia, India, China, Greece and Rome — polygamy was a fact of life. In pre-Islamic Arabia, it was unrestrained. The Koran has been widely interpreted as limiting this previously unlimited practice to socially necessary cases — making provision for the widows and orphans

is certainly not required in Islam. It is worth pointing out that during the Hajj — the most sacred act a Muslim can perform — a woman must reveal her face.

Veiling was prevalent among the urban upper classes in non-Muslim areas such as Syria, Palestine, Greece and Rome, but the practice was not introduced into Arabia by Islam, and is nowhere explicitly prescribed in the Koran. It is thought to be a relic of Christian Byzantine culture, emulated by the Arabs when they conquered Damascus after the death of the Prophet.

My aim in focusing on the early years of Islam has been to show that nothing in religion makes a woman a second-class citizen. But, despite notable exceptions, women have struggled to hold their place in Muslim societies. In ignorance of their rights, they have often become second-class, marginal citizens, if citizens at all. The rights given to them in the Koran must be reclaimed. However, the majority of Muslim women live in rural areas, having limited access to the schooling which would permit them to know and assert their birthrights as Muslims. Access to information is thus of primary importance.

And although many women do participate in their national workforces, only through further education will they be allowed to play the full and creative role in society that Islam had the courage to envisage. After all the Prophet himself said:

"The acquisition of knowledge is a duty incumbent on every Muslim, male and female".

An indication of Islam's belief in peaceful coexistence with other faiths can also be provided by examination of its scriptures. The Holy Koran describes the followers of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism alike as "people of the book", all sharing the revelation of the one God, and all worthy of respect. The tolerance of Islam on the question of religious minorities is illustrated by the famous Koranic injunction:

"There shall be no compulsion in religion" (Sura 2, Verse 256)

which is further amplified by the instruction to: "Let him who will, believe, and let him who will, reject it" (Sura 8 Verse 29), stressing, "To you be your way and to me be mine" (Sura 6 Verse 9). Clearly, these passages form a powerful argument for social and religious pluralism.

Our Prophet, when married

both a Christian and a Jew, when asked why he rose to his feet when the funeral procession of a Jew passed by, replied: "I know. Is it not a human soul?"

In all these areas, then, the picture we get of Islam as it was originally and most vitally practiced bears little relation to its image abroad. It was a religion with secure foundations in human equality; its object in this world was to construct the perfect society, one free from injustice and prejudice. And the achievement of that object is as worthy an aim for the twenty-first century as the seventh.

Today I speak to you on the eve of the anniversary of the Eid Al Nahda — The Arab Renaissance. We Arabs must play our part in the revitalisation of our culture. We who know these truths now find ourselves in a position of responsibility: we must make them known, within our communities and beyond.

It is one of the greatest tragedies of mankind that political considerations have forced the compassion and tolerance of our forefathers to take a back seat, when one of the most frequently used phrases in the Koran is "Ar Rehman Ar Rahim".

Egyptian artist exhibits

A world of faces staring you in the face



Babgory's faces on display at Al Riwaq

AMMAN — As soon as you enter Riwaq Al Balkaa, the art gallery where Babgory's work is on display, you are overwhelmed by a mélange of sensations provoked by the many eyes that stare at you from different directions and concealed corners of the old, secluded and once desolate dwelling, now exhibition hall.

Mr. Babgory's 54 collage acrylic works mainly portray faces and bodies formed by putting together rags, cardboard, coffee filters and other scrap items around the basic components of the "form". With three main elements, namely the eyes, the nose and what the painter calls the unseen line or the axis, his faces are formulated. Circles, curved lines and axis constitute his bodies. He goes directly to the basics, without putting much, if any, emphasis on the details.

ART REVIEW

One face may very well contain three or more faces, each having a different expression by using his unseen line. This technique enables him to succeed in fashioning very expressive faces, and meaningful figures. The unseen line, the artist explains, is one not seen by the viewer but only by the artist, "upon which the face or figure sets and which creates the equilibrium in the painting which is the key to perfection."

According to the artist, the

mystery is also obvious in his caricatures where he is able to represent a whole phenomenon through minimal lines, circles and a few dots.

"Why focus on the eye?" he says. "Since the oldest times the eye was the key to the spirit, the key to the world. It opens at birth and closes at death."

"And why use collage as a technique?"

"Collage accentuates the drama and creates a sharper contrast and thus a strong expression through the interaction of the different materials used."

Mr. Babgory defines himself as "an artist affected by an internal inspiration caused by God, a researcher who found himself in his art." Nevertheless, the impact of Picasso's style is evident in his work.

The Egyptian artist, who studied fine arts in Cairo and Paris, held around 100 exhibitions worldwide and won five caricature prizes. He is a writer as well as a painter. His written work includes 15 illustrated children's books, one bumper book and two caricature books.

His exhibition, which was opened under the patronage of Princess Wijdan Ali, Sunday June 13, will go on until July 13.

Hardship drives Bulgaria's children into vice and crime

By Vessela Sergueva

Agence France Presse

SOFIA — Every night about 50 gypsy children hang out by Sofia central railway station — their only home in a city grappling with a daunting post-communist moral, social and economic crisis.

From time to time, the police take the children away to wash and feed them but the youngsters are soon back.

All of them smoke and sniff glue. The girls prostitute themselves and the boys are abused by homosexuals.

Elsewhere, gangs of violent teenagers going under fascistsounding names like "Black Musk", "Iron Chain" or "Hitler Youth" routinely indulge in rape,

attacks on cripples and torturing animals.

Teenage prostitutes ply their trade in the city's private hotels and along the motorways. Press reports even speak of 12-year-olds having sex for chocolate.

Up to 12,000 orphans and abandoned children live in rundown orphanages in rural areas. Often these buildings have little, or no heating or hot water, and psychologists say such institutions are breeding grounds for juvenile delinquents.

At Monastere in southern Bulgaria, there are some 50 children aged from six to 14 in the village orphanage. Only seldom do they

get meat to eat or milk and have never even seen a radio or television.

At Vetren on the Danube, another 50 children in an institution for mentally-handicapped orphans are housed in a building so ramshackle it could collapse at any time.

The 70 children at Kalem village orphanage in the northwest have no running water let alone hot water.

Juvenile delinquency has soared in recent years with 10,156 crimes recorded in 1992, including 38 murders, 156 rapes and 655 burglaries. A total of 11,224 children were convicted, five times

more than in 1988.

Today, children are responsible for one out of every four thefts, according to statistics. Delinquency is most prevalent among children of ethnic minorities whose members are usually poorer than average and suffer more in times of economic hardship.

At Boichinovtsi prison for minors in northwestern Bulgaria, 53 of the 165 inmates are Turks and 48 Gypsies.

Drug abuse has assumed "terrifying" proportions among teenagers in the capital, according to a doctor at one psychiatric clinic, with youngsters between

12 and 14 the worst affected.

Heroin, sold at about \$15 a gramme, is widely available even in schools. About 15,000 youngsters in Bulgaria are registered as addicts, including 9,000 in the capital.

School teachers complain that

they can no longer cope with

violent pupils. Some schools hire bodyguards to protect the younger children from intimidation by the bigger pupils who force them to hand over pocket money and even clothing.

As many as 84 per cent of nursery school teachers said their charges frequently played games which featured "murders".

THE RIGHT PICTURE (June 14 - 15)

Crunch away on those pop corns and delicious snacks while enjoying either an American classic or one of the latest Hollywood movies around the pool at 8:30 p.m. JD 5++

Matinee shows of children's movies (E.T. and Back To The Future) at the Nightclub 2-4 p.m. JD 3++

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TASTE OF AMERICA

A breakfast feast for the little ones with all kinds, shapes, colours and tastes of yummy cereals; pancakes and a whole bunch of goodies. While you eat, you can enjoy watching your favourite cartoons and movies, at the Nightclub. That's not all. When you're done with your meal, you'll be treated to a free swim at the Marriott outdoor and indoor pools from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All this for only JD 3++

Sponsored by Khalaf Stores.

The Koran enjoins Muslims, men and women alike, to be modest in dress and demeanor. I cannot help thinking as I observe the peacock of our society that this is an eminently sensible recommendation. But the almost complete veiling that typifies parts of the Muslim world today

Announces the arrival of the most modern best quality assortment of:



Prince Mohammad Street, Tel.: 649388-654708, Amman.



BLUE NOTE

The perfect vacation of your dreams for only JD 10++. First, you must enjoy a jazz night by the famed Bert Seager Jazz Quartet from Boston and the draw on the entry tickets entitles you to one of the following packages of free air tickets, free stays from 15 Marriott Hotels in the U.S. and 9 in the international region as well as car rental from Hertz for the duration of the stays: Maui & San Francisco; New York & Chicago; Florida & New York; Boston & Washington; Chicago & San Diego; Florida & Washington

are only some of the packages on the list.

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Economy

European central bankers see lower interest rates

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — European central bankers said Monday they expected recent declines in interest rates in Europe to continue as countries tried to lift their economies out of recession.

The bankers, at the annual meeting of the Basle-based Bank for International Settlements (BIS), agreed that a relaxation of monetary policy offered the only possible path out of a recession that was much harsher and deeper than many had anticipated.

"I don't see the trend of falling interest rates in continental Europe running out of steam," Bengt Dennis, president of the Bank of Sweden and chairman of the BIS, told a news conference after the meeting.

European Economics Commissioner Henning Christophersen added that European central bank governors had agreed at their regular monthly meeting, held Monday, that the relaxation of monetary policy was not over.

"Nobody wants to force the markets, but the feeling is that the process (of lowering rates) is not finished," he said.

France Monday was the latest European country to lower its interest rates, cutting its intervention rate by a quarter of a percentage point to 7.25 per cent. The French cut adds to pressure on the Bundesbank to lower its leading interest rates at its regular policy council meeting Thursday.

Rates in a number of European countries are now considerably below German interest rates, but bankers rejected recent currency market speculation that this as well as recent mark weakness in the European currency grid indicated the demise of the mark as

the anchor currency of the European Monetary System.

"That does not mean that the anchor role is endangered," Bundesbank President Helmut Schlesinger said.

He added that if economic fundamentals in some countries allowed them to sustain lower rates than in Germany it only showed that their economies were in better shape.

Bankers at the BIS stressed that easier monetary policy was the only hope for reviving Europe's sluggish economies.

Alexandre Lamfalussy, general manager of the BIS, told the news conference that the poor state of public finances in most European countries did not allow them to consider stimulating aggregate demand in their economies with fiscal measures.

"So it leaves... monetary policy relaxation which has started," he said. "Whether it will have a very quick effect or now, that I don't know."

Chairman Dennis had earlier told the annual meeting of the BIS that monetary policy-makers faced testing times ahead.

"Monetary authorities must learn to operate in a financial environment which has narrowed their room for manoeuvre, an environment less tolerant of policy misjudgements," he said.

He said last year's turbulence in the ERM, the worst crisis since the collapse of the Bretton Woods fixed exchange rate system in the early 1970s, had shown that currency parities could only be sustained if underpinned by sound economic fundamentals.

The BIS also said that monetary signals have proved to be misleading as the Japanese and

Analysts see dollar at 100 yen

LONDON (R) — The dollar enjoyed a modest rebound in European trading Tuesday after the Bank of Japan (BOJ) waded into the currency markets with some aggressive intervention, snatching it back from yet another low.

By 1100 GMT the dollar had clambered gratefully from its latest post-war trough of 104.80 yen to stand at 105.40 from a 105.03 close in Tokyo and 105.15 in London Monday.

But analysts said even intervention on Tuesday's scale — rumoured to be in the region of \$2 billion — could not save the dollar.

"The yen's going to 100.00 and there's little the BOJ can really do about it," said John Hall, international economist at Swiss Bank Corporation in London.

The report said: "In fact central banks in these countries no longer rely on only one aggregate as the main policy guide."

In this context "misleading signals given by the weak expansion of traditional monetary aggregates increased the difficulties confronting central banks in explaining why policy was not eased more in recession."

The problems central banks faced in defending policy "are likely to become greater when a strengthening of economic activity calls for a rise in interest rates if it is not possible to identify aggregates whose development supports the need for a tightening of policy."

Pakistan chooses political pain for the sake of economic gain

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's fragile government chose political pain for the sake of economic gain in a tough budget Monday that gives incentives to investment but raises customs duties, sales taxes and the cost of petrol.

The 1993/94 (July/Junc) budget effectively slashes defence spending while taking unpopular decisions to boost revenue and bring down a soaring current account deficit.

Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz forecast a deficit of 5.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) or \$5 billion rupees (\$3.1 billion) for 1993/94, down from this year's shortfall of 7.0 per cent, or 9.5 billion rupees (\$3.5 billion) that exceeded targets by 1.5 per cent.

Economists welcomed the 5.5 per cent forecast, saying it would be in line with International Monetary Fund conditions for aid. The World Bank has cited Pakistan's repeated failure to cut substantially its fiscal shortfall as exceeded targets by 1.5 per cent.

While the customs net was broadened, existing high duties on several items, including cars, tyres and some pesticides, were reduced. "The highest slab of duty in the tariff is proposed to be 90 per cent to 80 per cent," Mr. Aziz said.

The cuts were also aimed at curbing smuggling, which fuels a large portion of Pakistan's huge underground economy.

Mr. Aziz said the price of petroleum products would be linked to the exchange rate in a

lot of businessmen are going to kick and scream."

Masood Ismail, chairman of the All Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association complained: "The big jump in the cost of petroleum products will have multiple negative effects on almost every product and will raise inflation."

"This budget will hurt the common man," he pointed out.

However, Mr. Aziz forecast that revenue raising measures such as the sales tax, higher costs of petroleum and removal of almost all exemptions from customs duties except on wheat, medicines, fertiliser, pesticides and petroleum products would boost revenue by 17.6 billion rupees (\$651 million).

The wide range of relief in taxes and duties will definitely boost investment activity," said Karachi Stock Exchange Chairman Arif Habib. "The government's fiscal incentives will lift the equity market in a big way."

The budget gives a two-year tax exemption to bonus shares and withdraws a 5.0 per cent capital value tax on new shares.

It exempts new madorabas — Islamic mutual funds — from income tax for two years while reducing income tax on established madorabas to 12.5 per cent from 25 per cent.

However, Mr. Sharif bowed to pressure from Pakistan's powerful feudal landlords and did not affect agriculture — which accounts for 35 per cent of the economy — into the tax net.

More than half the 217 members of the national assembly are landowners.

move welcomed by economists as a major structural reform that would provide a long-term revenue boost.

Investment incentives included halving an excise duty on bank loans to 1.0 per cent and extension of the tax holiday on capital gains for a further three years to June 30, 1996.

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spending and 0.7 per cent in exports, corporate investment would slump 6.4 per cent.

The last forecast for economic growth made by the outgoing Socialist government in March had been for expansion of 0.5 to 0.6 per cent. Its original 1993 budget, drawn up last summer, was based on a growth estimate of 2.6 per cent.

Paris expects recession to deepen

PARIS (R) — The French government said Monday it expects the country's recession to be twice as deep as it forecast in its budget just two months ago.

Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery, confirming weekend press reports, said he is now counting on a 0.8 per cent fall in market sector gross domestic product (GDP) and not 0.4 per cent

as the government had predicted in April.

But, speaking on Europe 1 radio after a day that brought the eighth interest rate cut since the new centre-right government came to power at the end of March, Mr. Alphandery was upbeat about the future.

"The plane has pulled out of its nose dive and in the second half

we are going to stabilise economic activity," he said.

Growth will start again at the beginning of 1994, he said, noting that, on average, government experts are counting on growth of 4.4 per cent in 1994 and a fast-rising rate at the end of that year.

For this year, Mr. Alphandery said that while there would be a

rise of 0.6 per cent in consumer

Dollar buys 1,116 roubles

MOSCOW (R) — The rouble resumed its downward trend against the dollar Tuesday, weakening to a record low of 1,116 to the U.S. dollar from 1,098 at the last trading session on Friday. The Russian currency has lost well over half its value against the dollar this year. The rouble is not convertible on world markets but daily trading sessions on the tiny Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange give 100 commercial banks a chance to trade it. Fear about steep Russian inflation has been the main factor behind the rouble's precipitous decline this year. The central bank and the government agreed a series of measures in May to bring monthly inflation below 10 per cent by the end of 1993.

With the European Community the surplus plummeted 27.1 per cent from a year earlier to \$1.95 billion as Japan's exports to the EC declined by 12.6 per cent to \$4.34 billion and its imports from the EC rose by 4.2 per cent to \$2.40 billion.

Japan's exports to Asia rose by 19.7 per cent to \$10.37 billion and its imports from Asia went up by 13.7 per cent to \$6.32 billion. The surplus rose by 30.45 per cent to \$4.05 billion.

The plan's key points are: — The equivalent of \$6 billion will be cut from the 1993 fiscal budget.

— Only states and Municipalities up to date in their debt payments to the federal government will receive new aid.

— The central bank will be given autonomy to close or intervene in state banks, traditionally

used by state governments to finance their deficits.

The programme said states and cities take 40 per cent of Brazil's available tax revenue and owe the central government \$40 billion. Mr. Cardoso has named them as major culprits in driving inflation.

Initial reaction to the plan seemed favourable. Stock markets rose, with the Sao Paulo exchange up 0.7 per cent in moderate trade, and state news agency Agencia Brasil said congressional leaders generally supported Mr. Cardoso's programme.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 16, 1993

By Thomas S Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

other periodicals that have the date you desire in order to round out your present knowledge to have more success.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think about just where you are financially headed and also what you can do to turn present material problems into making more assets for yourself.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have been tied down to other matters and so busy you have had little time to consider your own personal wishes and ambitions but now is the day.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) It's a day for you to carefully consider all aspects of the way you want to live and operate for your in time aims so get into such studies.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have a determined and purposeful friend who has very strong ideas how you can best gain the aims that mean most to you so consult with this person.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You would be wise to be more aware of the direction in which you are headed, enterprising and amusement wise and you can find out on this day.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) There are some conditions at your residence that you do not understand and this is the perfect time to locate what they are and the reason therefore.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Get into your newspaper and

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"Before we kiss, I better put some newspapers on the floor. You slobber!"

JUMBLE

by Horst Arnold

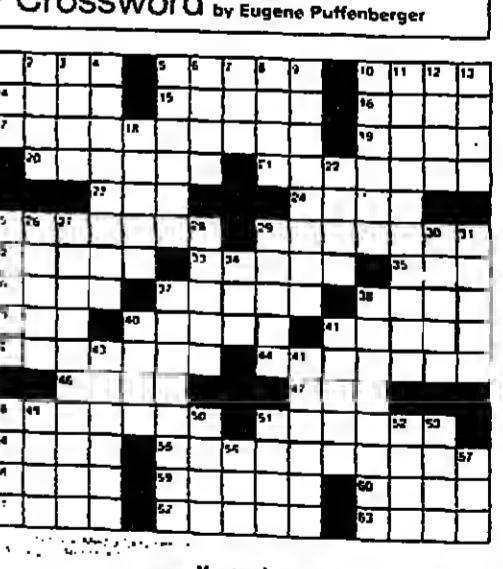


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.
Print answer here: **WANTY**

Yesterdays' Jumble FLANKS SWOOP FEUOL PODIUM
Answer in the theater those mean no work and no play—FLOP'S

THE Daily Crossword

by Eugene Puffenberger



Yesterdays' Puzzle Solved:

WARM	CORIA	CITIES
ASEA	RAID	AGORA
CHIT	UKIES	RUNIN
SYNTHAXES	FRAZED	EDEN
FIORES	SHAY	BOOM
ACME	DAIRY	POW
CELESTE	SAIGE	FRAYED
ERASABLE	STYLIC	EDEN
ARTY	PAUSED	BOOM
ZANIES	LEND	POW
GURGE	LEND	EDEN
LEND	ETNA	POW
ENDER	ETNA	EDEN
STOSS	ETNA	POW
GOALS	ETNA	EDEN

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET						
ROUTING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDANIA TELEPHONE: 660170 / 063170 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 13/06/1991						
COMPANY & NAME		TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE
JD	PRICE	JD	PRICE	JD	PRICE	JD
ABRA BANK						
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	345,070	174,000	173,000	171,000	171,000	171,000
JORDAN AGRICULTURE BANK	203,310	32,000	33,000	33,500	33,500	33,500
BANK OF JORDAN	0,700	33,000	33,500	33,500	33,500	33,500
INDUSTRIAL BANK INVESTMENT BANK	19,544	4,800	4,650	4,650	4,650	4,650
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	128,120	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	87,410	6,700	6,550	6,700	6,700	6,700
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	105,734	5,700	5,550	5,700	5,700	5,700
JORDAN LEADERSHIP BANK	309,120	3,040	2,850	2,850	2,850	2,850
JORDAN LEADERSHIP & INVESTMENT	1,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
JORDAN BUSINESS BANK	123,640	5,200	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
JORDAN CAPITAL SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	16,725	4,600	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
JORDAN PETROLEUM SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	12,547	5,100	5,100	5,050	5,050	5,050
JORDAN PETROLEUM SAVINGS & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	146,533	1,760	1,670	1,720	1,720	1,720
JORDAN PETROLEUM SAVINGS & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	146,533	2,100	2,050	2,050	2,050	2,050
JORDAN PETROLEUM INSURANCE	4,476	3,100	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
JORDAN PETROLEUM POWER	139,250	2,100	2,050	2,050	2,050	2,050
JORDAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	560	0,580	0,660	0,660	0,660	0,660
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	34,632	4,300	4,250	4,250	4,250	4,250
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	45,856	0,840	0,800	0,820	0,820	0,820
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL HOLDING & MANUFACTURING	6,335	1,320	1,200	1,220	1,220	1,220
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	633,223	9,150	8,600	8,900	8,900	8,900
JORDAN PETROLEUM MANUFACTURING	68,643	2,200	2,150	2,210	2,210	2,210
JORDAN PETROLEUM PETROCHEMICALS EDUCATION ATTACHMENT CO. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	7,680	2,900	2,600	3,880	3,880	3,880
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	48,952	3,770	3,600	3,740	3,740	3,740
JORDAN PETROLEUM PETROCHEMICALS EXPENDITURE & MAINTENANCE	48,650	4,600	4,650	4,680	4,680	4,680
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	14,121	1,070	1,040	1,070	1,070	1,070
JORDAN PETROLEUM PETROCHEMICALS & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	975,961	22,000	20,500	20,500	20,500	20,500
JORDAN PETROLEUM PETROCHEMICALS & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	95,045	3,380	3,380	3,310	3,310	3,310
JORDAN PETROLEUM PETROCHEMICALS & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	39,710	11,500	10,900	11,050	11,050	11,050
SO. OF STYLERS LTD. IN PARALLEL MARKET	155,780					
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	155,780					
GRAND TOTAL	5,357,639					

Financial Jordan Times
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank.

U.S. Dollar in International Markets	
Currency	New York Close
	Date 14/6/93
Sterling Pound	1.5269
Deutsche Mark	1.6285
Swiss Franc	1.4540
French Franc	5.4760
Japanese Yen	105.10
European Currency Unit	1.2010
USD per JDT	
European Opening at 1000 JDT, GMH	
Euromoney Interest Rates	Date: 15/6/1993
Currency	1 MTH 3 MTHS 6 MTHS 12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.725 + 3.18 3.37 3.62
Sterling Pound	5.80 + 5.83 5.81 5.84
Deutsche Mark	7.75 + 7.50 7.15 6.65
Swiss Franc	5.00 + 5.00 4.81 4.69
French Franc	7.37 + 7.18 6.57 6.43
Japanese Yen	3.21 + 3.18 3.21 3.25
European Currency Unit	7.75 + 7.38 7.13 6.75

Precious Metals Date: 15/6/1993

Precious Metals	
Metal	USD/Oz JD/Gm ²
Gold	365.85 6.90

11 Ksar Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 15/6/1993

Currency		Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar		0.6870	0.6890
Sterling Pound		1.0500	1.0553
Deutsche Mark		0.4222	0.4245
Swiss Franc		0.4730	0.4754
French Franc		0.1256	0.1262
Japanese Yen		0.6531	0.6564
Dutch Guilder		0.3764	0.3784
Swedish Krona		0.0949	0.0954
Italian Lira		0.0465	0.0467
Belgian Franc		0.02054	0.02064

Per 100 Other Currencies Date: 15/6/1993

Currency		Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar		1.7990	1.8310
Lebanese Lira		0.0367	0.0407
Saudi Riyal		0.1829	0.1840
Kuwaiti Dinar		2.2300	2.2800
Qatari Riyal		0.1860	0.1872
Egyptian Pound		0.1950	0.2100
Omani Riyal		1.7510	1.7850
UAE Dirham		0.1860	0.1872
Greek Drachma		0.3080	0.3480
Cypriot Pound		1.4080	1.4480

Per 100 Other Currencies Date: 15/6/1993

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Per 100 Other Currencies Date: 15/6/1993

Currency		B
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Eosnian Croat, Muslim and Serb commanders agree to ceasefire

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The top military commanders of Bosnia's three warring factions signed a general ceasefire agreement here Tuesday to come into effect at 1000 GMT Friday across the war-torn republic, officials said.

During the meeting at Sarajevo Airport, Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladić also gave a written pledge to allow U.N. troops into the besieged east Bosnian Muslim enclave of Gorazde Wednesday, they said.

It was the first meeting since the Bosnian war began 14 months ago of Gen. Mladić, Bosnian Croat militia chief Milivoj Petković and the head of the mainly Muslim Bosnian army, Rasim Delić.

In Geneva, U.N. mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg confirmed the agreement and said the Bosnian Serbs had also pledged to allow drinking water into another Bosnian Muslim enclave, Srebrenica.

Srebrenica and Gorazde are among six Muslim-majority enclaves declared safe havens by the United Nations. But Serbian forces have continued their attacks on Gorazde, reportedly advancing to within less than a kilometre from the city's defence lines.

Intense fighting has also broken out in recent weeks in central Bosnia between Croats and Muslims, erstwhile allies against the Serbian secessionists.

Mr. Stoltenberg said Gen. Mladić agreed to let eight U.N. military observers into Gorazde by midday Wednesday.

French General Philippe Morillon, the commander of U.N. troops in Bosnia and Swedish General Lars-Erik Wahlgren, the commander of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia chaired the airport meeting.

Muslim forces pressed an offensive against Croats, their former allies in Bosnia's 14-month-old civil war. Reuter reporter John Fullerton, reporting from the central Bosnian town of Vitez, said fresh battles had erupted between Croats and Muslims on the outskirts of Novi Travnik.

Fighting extended to the village of Dolac and the eastern approach road to Travnik as well as to a strategically important road junction linking the two towns with Vitez.

Croat radio described the situation in the areas as dramatic and said the Muslims were pressing a fierce attack, pouring fire into Novi Travnik said to be packed with 20,000 refugees.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said artillery attacks on Gorazde had wounded so many that the corridors of the town's main hospital Tuesday were packed with badly injured people.

On Monday alone, 69 people were killed in a "hellish" rocket

and artillery attack, the radio said.

At the United Nations, Bosnia's U.N. ambassador, Mohammad Sacibey, said 700 people had been killed since the Serbs launched the latest offensive on Gorazde four weeks ago.

"Every house in the city is either a morgue or a hospital," Britain's Sky Television reported him as saying.

His assertion could not be independently confirmed.

Since the war in Bosnia began 14 months ago, when Serbs opposed to the republic's independence took up arms, not a single ceasefire has held for long and most were broken almost immediately.

The latest fighting in Bosnia was taking place in spite of a ceasefire ordered by the republic's collective presidency in Geneva Sunday.

In New York, the United Nations recommended sending 7,500 fresh troops, backed by air power, to guard the safe areas designated by the U.N. Security Council.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali called this the "light option" and said 34,000 troops would be needed if the areas were going to be properly protected.

It was not clear who would provide the additional 7,500 troops, let alone another 34,000.

Bangladesh announced Tuesday it would send troops to Bosnia.

nia bnt gave no details on how many.

Russian Foreign Minister Andre Kozyrev said in Vienna his country was ready to commit troops to protect safe areas in Bosnia but would not send its men into "besieged fortresses under fire."

The six designated Muslim safe areas — Gorazde, Srebrenica, Sarajevo, Bihać, Tuzla and Zepa — are all besieged. Four of them are under steady fire.

At the moment, the United Nations has about 9,000 troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina, mostly supplied by European countries. The troops have been frequently mocked and humiliated by combatants from all sides.

Dr. Ghali, in commanding the dispatch of at least another 7,500 troops, said they should be given heavy equipment, including armoured personnel carriers.

The United Nations suspended its humanitarian airlift to the besieged Bosnian capital of Sarajevo Tuesday after gunfire erupted close to two incoming aircraft, officials said.

A U.N. relief agency spokesman told Reuters relief flights were halted at noon, the second suspension in two days, after two pilots reported "multiple firing and flashes too close to their planes." They were not hit but the airport control tower was, she said.



Serb soldiers fire a mortar from a trench near the eastern Bosnian Muslim enclave of Gorazde (AFP photo)

Azeri government troops, rebels clash

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Azerbaijani government troops clashed Tuesday with rebel forces near the town of Aduzhikabul northwest of Baku leaving dead and wounded on both sides, the Azerbaijani News Agency, Turan, reported.

An Azerbaijani Defense Ministry spokesman contacted by telephone denied the report and said Aduzhikabul, located about 120 kilometres northwest of Baku was calm.

The report said the rebel forces launched the attack on government troop positions following the expiration of an ultimatum issued by the rebels, who are demanding the resignation of President Abulfaz Elchibey.

Turan, quoting information from the press centre of the Azerbaijani Popular Front which backs Mr. Elchibey, said both sides in the clash used artillery and armoured vehicles.

It said fighting was continuing at Aduzhikabul and added that government troops had succeeded in neutralising a separate group of rebel forces in clashes near the coastal town of Alyat, about 120 kilometres south of Baku.

The report came as the rebel forces, led by Suren Guseinov, continued to take control of towns to the northwest, west and south of Baku amid a deepening political crisis in the Azerbaijani capital.

Meanwhile Azerbaijan's ex-Communist elder statesman Gidzar Aliyev made an astonishing comeback to power in Baku Tuesday when he was elected parliament chairman, local journalists said.

Thirty-seven parliamentarians voted for Mr. Aliyev and three against at a session attended by President Elchibey. There are 50 deputies in the Azerbaijani parliament.

Azerbaijanis officials and news agency reports said earlier that 48 U.S. nationals, dependents of U.S. diplomats and businessmen in Baku were evacuated aboard a

U.S. military plane Tuesday due to the unrest.

Turan reported that Alimrah Gunnemetov, a former leader of the Popular Front which backs Mr. Elchibey, had "taken control" of the coastal city of Lenkoran about 250 kilometres south of Baku and was also demanding that Mr. Elchibey step down.

The evacuations and heightened military tension came after Guseinov met Sunday with Mr. Aliyev in Gyandzha and reiterated his demand that Mr. Elchibey quit.

Mr. Guseinov, who was sacked by Mr. Elchibey in February, accused his former political master of corruption — "violating human rights."

"Aliyev, the former secretary general of the Azerbaijani Communist Party, last week entered into talks with Mr. Elchibey for the creation of a powerful new state council which Mr. Aliyev said he wanted to lead."

This will give us time to stabilise the situation and meet our commitments" which some military units "over which we have no control" are opposing, the spokesman said.

Mr. Aliyev did not say how many of the 15,000 troops had rebelled.

Mr. Bagdassarian said the endorsement of the Stepanakert authorities was the result of strong pressure from Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who flew to the Nagorno-Karabakh capital Monday.

The CSCE peace plan calls for Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenians to give up control of a corridor linking the enclave to Armenia as a first step to a ceasefire and the deployment of international monitors in the region.

The unassuming Mr. Major was Lady Thatcher's preferred successor after she was ousted by her own party as an election liability.

But she has since been a far from enthusiastic supporter and has supported a rightwing Conservative revolt against the European Community's Maastricht Treaty.

The opposition Labour Party

described this twin support for Mr. Major as "the kiss of the viper."

The plan has already been accepted by Armenia and Azerbaijan.

But the enclave's military leaders had refused to abandon the strategic Kelchadzor corridor, which they seized in April, unless Baku promised not to send its troops into the region.

Thatcher gives unexpected support for Major

LONDON (R) — Former British Premier Margaret Thatcher has put aside her differences with embattled Prime Minister John Major and said a challenge to his leadership of the Conservative Party is out of the question — for now.

As Mr. Major struggles to reassert his authority, his predecessor, toppled by a party revolt in 1990, unexpectedly threw his weight behind other Conservative politicians who have rallied to support the most unpopular British leader since the war.

"There can be no question of a leadership challenge at the moment. Any such challenge would be ill-judged and ill-timed," Lady Thatcher told ITN News Monday.

The unassuming Mr. Major was Lady Thatcher's preferred successor after she was ousted by her own party as an election liability.

But she has since been a far from enthusiastic supporter and has supported a rightwing Conservative revolt against the European Community's Maastricht Treaty.

The opposition Labour Party

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a speech in which he appealed to back the necklacing of his opponents. The military and civilian elite, which have often brutally dominated Haiti since independence in 1804, have maintained that they acted because they feared for their lives.

The lawmakers said Mr. Aristide must recognise his actions since the coup, including the appointment as army commander of Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras — the man Mr. Aristide says masterminded the coup. The legislators said the new Aristide-backed government must also submit a proposal for a general amnesty.

One Aristide aide, Alexander Medard, said late Monday that he did not believe the exiled president could accept the resolution.

Mr. Aristide has insisted on an unconditional return to power. He demands the army be purged of corrupt officers and has been unwilling to grant an amnesty. He has said a hemisphere-wide trade embargo must be tightened, not lifted, until a date for his return is set.

The lawmakers fixed no such date.

South Africa democracy talks face boycott threat

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Conservative blacks threatened Tuesday to quit South Africa's constitutional talks, accusing the ANC of manipulating.

The government of the KwaZulu black homeland, led by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, told the forum of 26 political groups that a date for the country's first all-race election could not be set until constitutional options had been fully debated.

"We feel the obligation to warn all participants that the KwaZulu government and the Inkatha Freedom Party, both submitted resolutions calling for their proposed federal constitution to be debated.

They want autonomy for KwaZulu and Natal under a new constitution. The African National Congress (ANC), rivaling for power with Inkatha, is joined by allies in insisting for a unitary South Africa with some powers devolved to regions.

KwaZulu is one of 10 nominally-independent or self-governing black homelands set up by Pretoria under its previous policy of grand apartheid to segregate the races.

"Whoever pushes negotiations rejected the resolution calling for debate of the federal option, KwaZulu would refuse to lend its approval to any decisions of the negotiating council.

"We will implement what we consider a constructive form of filibustering until there is clarity on the process," he said.

The homeland government would withdraw altogether, "if we assess that discussions on substantive other than the form of state and violence are getting ahead of those issues."

"Whoever pushes negotiations from the basis of a two-stage process centred around a Constituent Assembly and the denial of federalism, and in spite of the fact that we are providing consensus, will be politically responsible for the withdrawal from negotiations of the KwaZulu government," Mr. Ngubane said.

Retiring Mr. Major was a key part of Patten's plan.

HONG KONG (AP) — Britain has apparently dropped part of Chris Patten's democratic reform proposals, as a fifth round of talks with China over the colony's political future continues in Peking. Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), quoting sources in the Chinese capital, said Britain and China had "agreed in principle" that the so-called functional constituencies in the Legislative Council should be based on "well-recognised organisations or professions" in the colony, which reverts to Chinese rule in 1997. Mr. Patten, looking to extend democracy in Hong Kong ahead of 1997, had proposed that industrial and commercial workers, rather than their bosses, elect nine Legislative Council seats reserved for functional constituencies in 1995 polls. Thus, for instance, textile workers would cast votes for the legislator representing the textile industry — instead of the current practice of having the seat filled by a Textile Executives' Association. RTHK said the Sino-British talks had yet to agree on other major portions of Mr. Patten's blueprint, including the make-up of an electoral college to fill up to 10 Legislative Council seats and the abolition of government-appointed District Board members.

Malawi votes for multi-party system

BLANTYRE (AFP) — Malawi was heading towards multi-party politics Tuesday after a referendum which acted like a catalyst for hopes of change in a country dominated by a single party for 30 years. Opposition movements forecast a crushing majority of 75 to 85 per cent in favour of their calls for a multi-party system. There was no official word on results, with counting proceeding very slowly at the National Referendum Commission in the administrative capital Lilongwe. It was refusing to issue partial returns. But the Alliance for Democracy (AFORD), one of the main groups advocating multi-party politics along with the United Democratic Front, calculated that by midday some 50 per cent of votes had been tallied. Its figures showed a clear victory for multi-party politics in the heavily-populated south.

Secessionist prince said to flee Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's secessionist prince, Norodom Chakrapong, and his armed followers left their self-proclaimed eastern "autonomous zone" and crossed into Vietnam Tuesday, a U.N. military spokesman said.

A U.N. military observer watched as Prince Chakrapong and a convoy of 20 vehicles carrying supporters crossed the border at 6:30 a.m. and turned over their weapons to a Vietnamese border guard post, the spokesman said.

Prince Chakrapong, who hacked the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) in last month's U.N.-run election, has alleged that the Royalist FUNCINPEC Party of his half-brother and political enemy, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, won through fraud.

On Saturday he declared an unspecified number of provinces on the Vietnam border an autonomous zone to be ruled by himself and two allies — a secessionist movement which threatened to reinvoke the civil war.

"The secessionist movement does seem to be evaporating. It's looking pretty good today," a senior diplomat said.

Prime Minister Hun Sen, head of the government that came second in the elections, travelled in the rebellious east Monday and Tuesday and reported to the United Nations that the most populous province was no longer in secession.

"That is very good for us," a U.N. military officer said. "It means we won't have to deal with it militarily."

Hun Sen said all restrictions placed on the movements of U.N. personnel in Kompong Cham province, where his brother Hun Neng is governor, had been lifted.

Kompong Cham was one of at least three eastern provinces which disgruntled leaders of the CPP declared autonomous.

The formerly Communist government, which Vietnam installed in 1979 after invading to oust the Khmer Rouge, won 51 seats in the May 23-28 election against 58 for FUNCINPEC. It claims the polls were fraudulent and refuses to recognise the result.

Most diplomats have viewed the secessionist movement as a CPP effort to win a greater role as a possible alternative.

The 120-seat National Assembly, which met for the first time Monday, is charged with writing a constitution within three months and then forming a government.

"It's all about power-sharing arrangements," another diplomat said. "Who will get what and what will the CPP be left with?"

Head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk, father of both the deposing princes, Tuesday hosted a lunch meeting of the National Assembly members, attended by CPP leaders and well as those from FUNCINPEC.

A palace source said it was a informal session designed to create personal relationships among politicians who had been bitter enemies during the 13-year civil war and the violent election campaign.

Jurassic Park makes 13-year-old a star

LOS ANGELES (R) — Ariana Richards, a blonde 13-year-old who has a starring role in Jurassic Park is about to become the best known teenager in America. There will be look-alike dolls as well as games and other toys bearing her likeness. All this for playing second fiddle to a bunch of mechanical dinosaurs, the stars of the record-setting blockbuster.

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Prime Minister Hun Sen, head of the government that came second

Agassi, Navratilova, Edberg get boost from seeding committee

WIMBLEDON (Agencies) — Andre Agassi Monday became the lowest seeded men's defending champion in Wimbledon history — and got a break to be seeded as high as he was.

Wimbledon officials installed the injury-plagued Agassi as the No. 8 seed, five places above his current world ranking, in recognition of his status as reigning title holder. The seeding means Agassi won't face a top eight player before the quarterfinals.

"It was a difficult decision bearing in mind he has not played much in the last couple of months because of injury," said Wimbledon referee Alan Mills. "But he is the defending champion and he proved he can play on grass."

Since seedings were introduced at Wimbledon in 1927, no men's champion who has returned to defend his title had been seeded lower than No. 6 the previous lowest-seeded defending champion was Jan Kodes, who was No. 6 the year after he won the boycott-tournament of 1973.

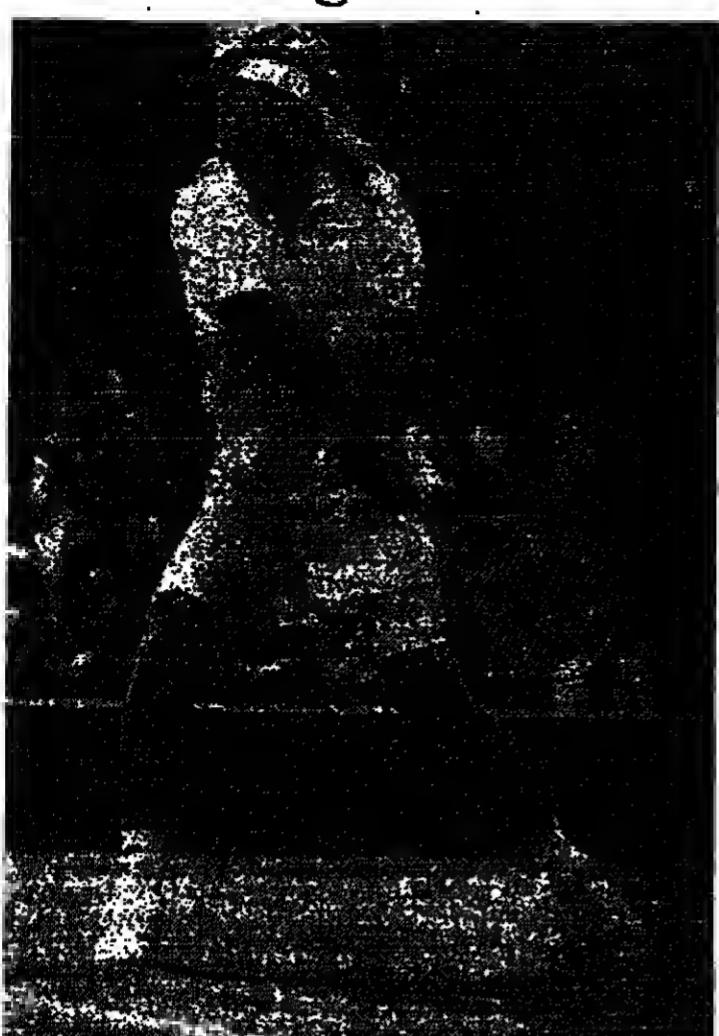
The seeding committee also used its own discretion in making Stefan Edberg the No. 2 seed behind Pete Sampras, while Jim Courier was bumped down to No. 3.

Among the women, Martina Navratilova's wish to avoid top-seeded Steffi Graf until the final was granted when she was elevated to No. 2 above higher-ranked Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

Agassi has dropped steadily in the rankings since surprising the tennis world last year by winning Wimbledon from the baseline. He has not played competitively since April 9 due to tendinitis in his right wrist.

Agassi was considered questionable for Wimbledon, but he arrived Monday in Germany for a grass-court warmup event in Halle. Agassi, was scheduled to play Tuesday against Carl Uwe Stech, practiced for less than an hour and did not speak with reporters.

Courier, who has won four



Defending champion Andre Agassi

Iova said she deserved the No. 2 spot because she was a better grass-court player than the Spaniard.

"I'm thrilled," Navratilova said when notified of the seedings Monday. "I don't think I really influenced the decision, but it makes sense for me to be upgraded. There are only two former champions in the tournament and it's right they should be in opposite halves of the draw."

Her past record on grass



Nine-time champion Martina Navratilova

Grand Slam titles and is ranked No. 2, has had little success on grass. That's why he was seeded behind Edberg, a two-time Wimbledon champion ranked No. 3.

Three-time champion Boris Becker was seeded No. 4, last year's runner-up Goran Ivanisevic was No. 5, 1991 champion Michael Stich was No. 6 and Ivan Lendl was No. 7.

Rounding out the rest of the men's seeds were Richard Krajicek (9), Andrei Medvedev (10), Petra Korda (11), Michael Chang (12), Wayne Ferreira (13), Mali Washington (14), Karen Novacek (15) and Thomas Muster (16). Grass-court specialist, Krajicek, Ferreira and Washington were all seeded three places above their world rankings.

The only top-ranked player missing was Sergi Bruguera, jumped to No. 5 after winning the French Open earlier this month but is skipping Wimbledon because of a dislike for grass.

Among the women, defending champion Graf was seeded No. 1 based on her world ranking. Graf won the French Open to reclaim the No. 1 ranking from Monica Seles, who is sidelined indefinitely after being stabbed during a tournament in Germany April 30.

Sanchez Vicario is ranked No. 3, behind Seles, but she was bypassed for the No. 2 seeding in favour of nine-time champion Navratilova. Last week, Navratilova

speaks for itself," Mills said. "Her worst performance here over the years has been losing in the quarterfinals (to Jennifer Capriati in 1991). The committee thought that for a grass-court tournament she should be more favourably placed over Sanchez Vicario."

Sanchez Vicario was seeded No. 3. The rest of the seedings followed the rankings, with Gabriela Sabatini, Mary Joe Fernandez, Conchita Martinez, Jennifer Capriati, Jana Novotna and Anke Huber rounding out the top 10.

The bottom six seeds were Magdalena Maleeva, Manuela Maleeva-Fragner, Katerina Maleeva, Mary Pierce, Amanda Coetzer, Helena Sukova and Nathalie Tauzia.

The tournament starts next Monday.

William Hill bookmakers installed Edberg, Sampras and Stich as favourites at 9-2. Ladbrokes bookmakers rated Edberg and Stich at 9-2, followed by Sampras and Becker at 5-1. Both bookmakers listed Graf as the women's favourite at 4-7.

Wimbledon security five times higher than usual

Some 1,000 security guards — almost five times the usual number — have been called in to protect players at the Wimbledon tennis championships, Britain's Daily Mail newspaper said Tuesday.

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Arabic

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Mediterranean Games begin today

AGDE, France (AP) — About 3,000 athletes, including a team from war-torn Bosnia and several of the world's top track stars, are assembling for one of the biggest multilateral sports events of the year — the 12th Mediterranean Games.

President Francois Mitterrand will officiate at the opening ceremonies Wednesday in Agde, just south of Montpellier in southern France.

The opening will touch off a far-flung, multi-sports festival reminiscent of the 1992 Winter Olympics, with the venues spread through 19 cities and towns in the Languedoc-Roussillon region on the Mediterranean coast north of the French-Spanish border.

Athletes from 19 countries are expected to compete in 26 sports, including three non-Olympic events: golf, karate and rugby.

The Mediterranean Games began in 1951 at Alexandria, Egypt and were held every four years through 1991. Organisers then opted for a new four-year cycle beginning this year, hoping a stronger field could be attracted if the Med Games took place the year after the Summer Olympics, rather than the year before.

Most countries are sending less than Olympic-caliber teams to this year's games. But a good turnout of well-known rumblers, such as world record holder Noureddine Morelli of Algeria and said Aouita of Morocco, make and field the highest-profile sport.

Italy and France are expected to dominate the overall medal race. Small countries such as Monaco and San Marino are also taking part.

Yugoslavia was a Med Games participant until its breakup three years ago. Now Croatia, Bosnia and Slovenia are sending teams.

Athletes from what remains as Serbia-dominated Yugoslavia will be allowed to compete under the designation of individual Mediterranean participant, similar to what they had at the 1992 Summer Olympics.

Although the opening ceremonies are set to be held for Wednesday, the basketball tournament began early so players would have time to rest before the European Championships in Germany at the end of the month.

The basketball competition has been renamed the "Drazen Petrovic tournament" in honour of the Croatian star who was killed in an auto accident last week. His Croatian teammates were late in arriving because of his funeral and their opening game with France was rescheduled.

The track and field events will be held Thursday through Monday in Narbonne, where the U.S. Olympic team practiced before heading to Barcelona last summer.

Aomita will participate in the 5,000 metres, the event in which he won the Olympic gold medal in 1984. He said he hopes his participation will be an example for other top athletes to compete on back to the crowd.

Navratilova ignores security pre-caution

Nine-time Wimbledon champion Navratilova said she will ignore an on-court security measure at the Eastbourne women's grass-court tournament, which has players sitting sideways to the fans.

In the wake of the stabbing of Seles by a fan in Hamburg, officials in Eastbourne decided to place the players' chairs side-on to them to see the crowd during changeovers.

It means they have their backs to the umpire's chair instead of back to the crowd.

Navratilova didn't get the chance to sit either way because her opening match against Romanian qualifier Roxander Dragomir was amongst thirty rained out Monday.

The sideways security measures was announced by Eastbourne tournament director George Hendon.

"We've taken some sensible precautions which we believe are sufficient to ensure no madman re-creates what happened in Hamburg," he said.

"There has always been a special relationship between the players and the public," he said. "We don't want to put a cage around the players and stop them being able to sign autographs."

Wimbledon security five times higher than usual

Some 1,000 security guards — almost five times the usual number — have been called in to protect players at the Wimbledon tennis championships, Britain's Daily Mail newspaper said Tuesday.

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Triple OT was sweet, but Bulls still control NBA finals

CHICAGO (AP) — The thrills have faded. The bodies are rested. Triple overtime is a sweet but distant memory for Phoenix. The Chicago Bulls still control the NBA finals.

They have an aroused Michael Jordan on their side and a goal of winning their third straight title by Friday night.

Hanging on through three overtimes to beat the Bulls 129-121 Sunday night cheered the Suns and eliminated the stigma of a "possible sweep. But Chicago leads the best-of-7 series 2-1 going into Wednesday night's game.

"It was a dramatic, memorable win," Phoenix coach Paul Westphal said Monday. "But it's just one game. I wish it counted double for all the minutes we had to play, but it doesn't."

"They have to realize they needed three overtimes to beat us," Chicago's Scottie Pippen said. "I don't think they can take confidence from that."

Neither is it encouraging to know that Jordan may be more pumped up than normal Wednesday night after missing 24 shots in game 3 and hearing praise for Kevin Johnson's defense against him.

"It's some sort of wakeup call," Jordan said of Chicago's first home playoff loss of the year. "I take (Johnson) seriously, but I don't see him as a defensive stopper."

Jordan did score 44 points Sunday night, but made only 6 of 20 shots after the third quarter. He blamed that on fatigue rather than Westphal's pregame decision to have Johnson rather than Dan Majerle guard him.

The Suns, wary of firing up Jordan, went out of their way Tuesday to heap praise on him. Johnson brushed off a question of whether he had frustrated Jordan.

"You're not going to bait me into that. Whatever happened, I'm glad it happened the way it did," he said.

Westphal was even more cautious.

"He's an unbelievable player. I don't think even Michael can guard Michael," he said.

Barkley said he had been forced to shoot — or, worst of all, play golf — until Wednesday.

But they were pooped during the overtimes and their shooting showed it.

"You'll see more of a team game" Wednesday night, Chicago coach Phil Jackson said. "We played the three overtimes basically one-on-one."

He gave the Bulls a day off from practice Monday to recover from the 63-minute marathon. The Suns also could benefit from the time off before game 4.

Charles Barkley needs time to rest his right elbow, which was drained of fluid a half hour before Sunday night's game. He still went out and had 24 points and 19 rebounds in 53 minutes.

Barkley said he had been forced to shoot — or, worst of all, play golf — until Wednesday.

They weren't exactly singing his praises.

But the critics who called for Graham Taylor's head after last week's loss to the United States soccer team at least appeared to give the England manager a stay of execution after Sunday's 1-1 tie with Brazil.

"David Platt removed the noose from Graham Taylor's neck," said the tabloid Daily Mirror in a reference to England's scorer.

"The Juventus star saved his boss from yet another public hanging here," said the Mirror, which last week printed a poster saying "wanted, dead or alive — Graham Taylor, the outlaw of English football."

The papers who last week wanted Taylor to resign or be fired, said England's performance against the impressive Brazilians at least put a smile back on the faces of the manager as well as the English fans.

"Graham Taylor's death march was transformed into a happy samba," said the Sun. "At least Taylor can breathe a little easier and this hating performance has no doubt saved his job until the World Cup reopens next season."

World Cup preliminaries

Yemen hand Pakistan another defeat

HONG KONG (AP) — Yemen defeated Pakistan 3-0 Monday in their World Cup qualifier in the Asian Zone Group A actions.

The Yemenis led the first half 1-0.

Iraq blanked Jordan 4-0 earlier in Monday's only other game to further its lead in the five-team group which also includes China.

In Wednesday's matches

Jordan take on China, and Iraq meet Yemen.

The winner of the group

preliminaries will advance into the second round of the Asian Zone qualifying tournament.

STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Iraq	5	4	1	0	20	2	9
Yemen	6	3	2	1	12	9	8
China	5	.3	0	2	11	2	6
Jordan	6	1	3	2	6	11	5
Pakistan	6	0	0	6	2	27	0

The bidding:

South West North East

* J 7 4 A 10 9 8

* 10 6 E 8 5

* 9 8 4 E 8 5

* 10 9 * E 8 5

* 8 5 4 E 8 5

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Arabs pressed to end Israel boycott —GCC

DUBAI (R) — Gulf Arab states are under increasing pressure from international companies to end a boycott of firms dealing with Israel, the secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was quoted as saying.

Sheikh Fahim Al Qassimi said the oil-rich GCC states were determined to abide by the boycott although some countries might not be adhering to that in a complete way.

"It is not a secret that Gulf Cooperation Council states are subject to big pressure from international companies supported by Zionism, but we are determined to abide by the decisions of the Arab League," he said.

Sheikh Qassimi, the top official of the GCC which groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, was speaking in an interview with the London-based *Al Wasat* magazine.

"If the boycott decision is amended or cancelled then we

will also abide by that," he said. "It happens that some countries don't abide by the decision in a complete way," he said.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah was quoted last week as saying Kuwait was among several Arab states that had disagreed from what he called the indirect boycott of Israel but would continue to apply a direct embargo.

He was quoted as saying Arab states were entitled to relax the indirect boycott when national interests were at stake.

Diplomats said they took the minister to mean Kuwait would still adhere to so-called primary boycott, which bars direct dealing with Israel itself.

They said his remarks indicated Kuwait had eased the secondary boycott of third country firms that invest in Israel or are seen as major contributors to the Israeli economy. A tertiary boycott affects subsidiaries of such companies.

S. Arabia and Bahrain free political prisoners

NICOSIA (R) — A Washington-based human rights group said Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have released a number of political detainees and urged the two countries to free others held for their political beliefs.

The International Committee for Human Rights in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula (ICHA-GAP) said in a statement that Saudi Arabia freed six Shi'ite Muslim prisoners detained for possessing banned political literature and contacts with opposition groups abroad.

It did not say how long they had been held or when they were released.

The statement, dated June 14, quoted the freed men as saying they had been tortured in prison and one of them, Mohammad Hassan Al Sabeeb, was hospitalized in February because of injuries received from torture.

The group has written to the Saudi authorities welcoming the



DASH TO SAFETY: A U.S. Marine escorts a Somali woman and her child to safety seconds before a large explosion ripped through one of warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed's weapons depots. U.N. forces have struck Aideed's arms depots in retaliatory strike this week (AFP photo)

U.S. offers Syria-Israel guarantees

(Continued from page 1)

releases of the six and urging them to take another decision in the near future to release the rest of the detained political prisoners."

As well as Mr. Shabeeb they were named as Hussein Mashameh, Zuberi Safawi, Naji Tahifah, Ali Omran and Madan Abbas.

The group also sent a letter to officials in Bahrain welcoming a decision by Emir Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa to release eight political prisoners who were sentenced to 15 years in jail each in 1981.

It said the emir's pardon also included "Bahraini political exiles who was allowed to return home."

The committee urged in its letter the officials in Bahrain to release the rest of the political prisoners, allow exiled citizens to return home without any conditions and cancel the government's policy of deporting Bahraini citizens," the statement said.

Syrians enjoy the negotiations more than they enjoy the conclusions," Mr. Peres said.

"I think there is grounds for optimism, and I believe that in spite of all the difficulties we are making headway in our negotiations with the Palestinians," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres' remarks echoed those of Faisal Husseini, head of the Palestine People's Party, formerly the communist party, said he would not attend the current round of talks to protest the "unfavourable" U.S. position and Israeli actions in the occupied territories.

Mr. Peres said the peace talks were making progress and he hoped for some "tangible agreements" in the next session with the Palestinians.

But Mr. Peres, speaking to reporters outside a U.N. human rights conference in Vienna, was less confident of progress with the Syrians.

"For the time being feel the

Palestinians want to discuss the status of Jerusalem at the peace talks, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman Yasser Abed Rabbo said.

"The 10th round of talks will focus on the new situation (Israel) created in the occupied territories to isolate Jerusalem and maintain the economic embargo of Gaza and the West Bank," he told AFP.

The Palestinians raised the Jerusalem issue when they met U.S. officials in Washington last week.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said in Tunis

Palestinians wanted to reach a declaration of principles with the Israelis on a five-year interim period of self-rule in the territories.

But he added that last month's

U.S. proposal to bridge differences over the proposed declaration was "inappropriate," as a basis of discussion for autonomy arrangements.

NEWS IN BRIEF

"Spy first tried to sell Egypt uranium"

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian lawyer hanged for spying had first offered to sell enriched uranium to his government before Israeli intelligence recruited him in Austria, a pro-government newspaper reported Tuesday. Egyptian authorities turned down the offer from Ali Abdul Salam Al Shahed while he was on a trip home from Vienna, where he had gone in 1990 to complete a doctorate in law. Al Akhbar newspaper said, Shahed returned to Austria where he delivered secrets about Egyptian "military technology" to Israeli intelligence who recruited him to set up a spy ring, it said. The paper did not say how Shahed, a civilian, obtained the military secrets. People he tried to recruit reported him to Egyptian authorities who then put him under surveillance and arrested him. He was convicted by a military court in May 1992, and executed on Sunday in a central Cairo prison. A statement from the military prosecutor's office said Shahed had given military secrets to a foreign state, which officials said was Israel. Israeli defence ministry spokesman Oded Ben Ami said he knew of no Egyptian spying for Israel.

Iran, Turkmenistan set up border commission

MOSCOW (R) — Iran and the former Soviet Republic of Turkmenistan will set up a permanent bilateral commission to deal with problems over their common border, Russia's *Itar-Tass* news agency said. The decision was taken at a meeting in the Turkmen capital Ashgabat between Iran's deputy foreign minister for border affairs, Mostafa Mir Anvarian, and military representatives from the Turkmen border guards. A representative of the Turkmen guards, Vladislav Shunovich, said that since the border regulations were agreed 30 years ago, natural disasters and the "arbitrary activities" of the population had caused the border to change.

31 split \$9.2m in MacArthur 'genius grants'

CHICAGO (AP) — Gospel singer Marion Williams said Monday that her \$374,000 MacArthur fellowship was the best thing to happen to her since she found Jesus. "I feel like this is a blessing," said Miss Williams, the first singer to be honoured by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's annual awards, which often are called genius grants.

SEoul (AP) — South Korea launched its first U.N. peacekeeping operation Tuesday with the advanced shipment of construction equipment and materials to Somalia aboard a Panamanian freighter. An army engineering corps of 250 men will follow July 14 to start the operations north of Mogadishu. They will build air-raid shelters, water and drainage systems and repair roads and bridges. South Korea became member of the United Nations in 1991.

South Korea joins U.N. force in Somalia

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Canada ends peacekeeping role in Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Canadian troops ended 29 years as peacekeepers in Cyprus Tuesday, slashing the size of the U.N. force on the divided island by a third. "The Canadian contingent ceases operations just before midnight tonight," a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) told Reuters Tuesday. "Their sector will be adjusted to the remaining line units of the British and Austrian contingents," he added. The departure of the 514 Canadian troops, less than a year after Denmark pulled out its contingent, signals growing international impatience with lack of progress to reunite the island's Greek and Turkish-Cypriots under a federation.

Algeria asks Germany to extradite FIS officials

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria has formally asked Germany to extradite two senior members of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), including a son of jailed FIS leader Abassi Madani, judicial sources said here, contradicting a German statement.

Algeria applied Sunday to the German foreign ministry for the extradition of Rabah Kebir, the FIS's spokesman abroad, and on June 3 for that of Oussama Abassi Madani, the sources said. On Monday, German Justice Minister Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger said Algeria had not yet asked for the extradition of the two men, both of whom have been sentenced to death in connection with a bomb attack that killed nine people at Algiers airport last August. Mr. Kebir, 36, and Mr. Abassi, 23, were arrested by German police on June 7 on the strength of an international arrest warrant transmitted to Interpol.

Sen. Specter recovering from surgery

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter was conscious and talking with his family within an hour after surgery to remove what doctors believe was a benign brain tumour, his son said. Sen. Specter, best known for his tough questioning of Anita Hill and proposing the single-bullet theory in the John F. Kennedy assassination, was "in good spirits and neurologically normal" after the 2½-hour operation Monday at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Shannan Specter said.

BUT, said a dealer, the latest batch of Marlboros imported by the ministry is almost of the same quality and flavour as of the types smuggled in from Lebanon through Syria or from Saudi Arabia or Iraq. Some smokers agreed, others did not.

— Amman-Damascus-Ammian drivers, once a key source to the black market, are no longer able to bring in cigarettes. "The customs authorities at the border do not allow us to bring in even one gross (the popular term for a 10-pack)," said a driver attached to an Abdali taxi office.

— Simultaneous with the decline in supply of Marlboros, prices have gone up for other smuggled brands, L&M, which used to be sold for 600 fils, now sells at JD1.2.

— There is no significant change in the supply and demand situation for other ministry-imported brands. "Some Marlboro smokers have switched to Kent and other brands, but the volume of consumption of those brands has not really gone up," said a tobacconist.

India launches major offensive in Kashmir

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian security forces have launched their largest combined offensive against rebels in the strife-torn state of Kashmir, the Press Trust of India said Tuesday. A high-ranking state official told the news agency in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, that the "biggest-ever joint operation" would restore normalcy and pave the way for polls by the end of the year, the first since 1987.

Shooting in paralysed Congolese capital

BRAZZAVILLE (R) — Political protest paralysed Congo's capital for the fourth straight day Tuesday and residents reported that opposition militants had fired shots in the air. Witnesses said a young girl was killed by a stray bullet overnight in the city's Ouene district. If confirmed, her death would raise to four the number of people killed since June 6, when a second round of voting was held in parliamentary elections declared invalid by the opposition.

Moroccan home hit by arson in Germany

BONN (R) — Two Moroccan women and four children escaped injury by fleeing through a first-storey window from a fire apparently laid by racists in western Germany, prosecutors said Tuesday. A swastika was spray-painted on a house wall and prosecutors investigating the Monday night blaze near Moenchengladbach said they assumed it was an attack by right-wing radicals.

Nigerian party wants poll scrapped

LAGOS (R) — The party running second in Nigeria's presidential election called Tuesday for the results of last Saturday's poll to be cancelled because it was "massively rigged," state radio said. The radio quoted a senior official of the National Republican Convention (NRC) as saying the party had lodged its protest with the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

Imperial banquets celebrate Japan royal wedding

TOKYO (AP) — Guests toasted with rice wine and feasted on shabu and whole sea breams Tuesday in the first of six gala banquets to celebrate the marriage of Crown Prince Naruhito and Masako Owada, a former diplomat. Naruhito, 33, the heir to the 1,500-year-old chrysanthemum throne, appeared in coattails at the main table with his parents, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. Crown Princess Masako, 29, who Wednesday became the second commoner since World War II to marry a future emperor, smiled meekly next to him. She wore a headband and gown on apricot with a pair of clustered pearls and a matching necklace. Tuesday's 40-minute meal was the first of six to be held each afternoon and evening through Thursday. All together, some 2,700 guests will attend. Foreign guests, including outgoing U.S. Ambassador Michael Armacost and his wife Bonny, are invited to the final banquet Thursday night, where forks and knives reportedly will be at hand, though the menu is to be kept secret.

Abu Ahmad, who served eight years as a soldier and lost his 20-year-old son in the war 1986, says "I contacted every family which I knew was waiting for a dead son or brother or father or husband to come home. I wrote them letters and signed my name that I had seen their soldier die. I wanted them to know so they can stop waiting in vain for a dead man to come home."

Neither the International Red Cross nor the Iraqi government have been able to confirm Shawkat's presence in any prison in Iran or his whereabouts. Nacla and her family believe that he is still alive. Iraqi officials believe that

Tens of thousands of Iraqis continue to languish in Iranian prisons

By Mariam M. Shahin

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

The writer, who has just returned from a working trip to Iraq, wrote this story out of Ameria, a suburb of Baghdad.

HERE IN this forlorn district of the Iraqi capital stands the home of Khalil Ismail Sahi, 50, a civil engineer and once one of thousands of technocrats working for the government.

On the bookshelf are antique trinkets inherited from his family as well as decorative dolls from Japan and former Czechoslovakia, books in Arabic and English about engineering and poetry. All are reminders of the educated middle class that Mr. Sahi once belonged to.

But today he is but a humbler, one of possibly 35,000. He has been a prisoner of war (POW) in Iran for the last 11 years.

Although the Iran-Iraq war officially ended five years ago, untold numbers of Iraqis remain unaccounted for and anywhere between 25-35,000 Iraqi

prisoners of war are as "lucky" as Shukrieh. Many never get letters and are not quite sure where their husbands are and if indeed they are still alive.

I have sold most of the valuable we own because now the 220 dinars from the government is no longer enough to support us," she says.

While Shukrieh believes her husband's return would not alleviate their economic problems as long as sanctions and the economic squeeze on Iraq continues, she says the family needs a father.

In the picture one sees a younger Shukrieh with a fashionable haircut and a red sleeveless dress, a far cry from the ominous black chador she wears today.

Pictures of working visits to Japan and Czechoslovakia dominate the rest of the album. "After the trip to Japan he joined the army and then we stopped taking pictures," explains Shukrieh.

Shukrieh managed to maintain a middle-class standard of living for her children through monthly cheques from the gov-

ernment as compensation for her husband's absence. But inflation and devaluation of the Iraqi dinar has eroded the Sahi family's standard of living.

Prisoners of war are as "lucky" as Shukrieh. Many never get letters and are not quite sure where their husbands are and if indeed they are still alive.

Um Arkin, 42, in Saddam City, a poor suburb of Baghdad, has not had a letter from her husband Abu Arkin in five years. "The last letter I got was shortly before the war ended and since then nothing. He was in a Tehran prison at the time," she says.

Taken prisoner in 1984, Abu Arkin, like Mr. Sahi, was a member of the People's Army at the time of his imprisonment.

Appeals and pleas to the Iraqi government have not produced results simply because, the Iraqi government says, it has no control over whom and when the Iranians let prisoners go. So Um Arkin, like Shukrieh, waits week after week and month after month and year after year for news of her husband.

But not all wives of Iraqi

most of the missing soldiers who are missing and have not gotten in touch with their families for years are probably dead. Official policy is not to declare any soldier dead until his body has been recovered.

"This policy is not fair to the family," Abu Ahmad, the father of a martyred soldier told the Jordan Times. "I was on the battle field a thousand times, some soldiers would get shot and we couldn't take them with us when we retreated or moved forward; we had to leave them there."

Abu Ahmad, who served eight years as a soldier and lost his 20-year-old son in the war 1986, says "I contacted every family which I knew was waiting for a dead son or brother or father or husband to come home. I wrote them letters and signed my name that I had seen their soldier die. I wanted them to know so they can stop waiting in vain for a dead man to come home."

Neither the International Red Cross nor the Iraqi government have been able to confirm Shawkat's presence in any prison in Iran or his whereabouts. Nacla and her family believe that he is still alive. Iraqi officials believe that

COLUMN

Commons roped in to defeat

LONDON (AFP) — The House of Lords collectively honed their muscles against the House of Commons late Monday, successfully pulling MPs to defeat for the sixth year running in the annual tug-of-war contest. The Lords team, captained by Lord Brougham and Vaux, gave the heave-ho to the Commons' hopes, in aid of a charity appeal to help cancer victims. The MPs failed, despite coaching from former Olympic runner Sebastian Coe, and cheer-leading from government chief whip Richard Ryde — well-practised after months of exhorting MPs to action in Maastricht debates. Organisers bopped the event would raise £75,000 (\$112,500) to help establish cancer care nurses in hospitals throughout the country.

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